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RECORD OF
LODOSS WAR
The Grey Witch
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Story by Ryo Mizuno
Art by Yoshihiko Ochi

RECORD OF LODOSS WAR

The Grey Witch

Story by Ryo Mizuno

Ryo Mizuno is the world renowned creator of the entire **Record of the Lodoss War** universe. The story you now hold in your hands, **The Grey Witch** is the first **Lodoss War** story Mr. Mizuno ever wrote. Looking back at all his works he feels that **The Grey Witch** is the most primitive, from his standpoint as its writer. For this reason, Mr. Mizuno says that he often gets embarrassed after re reading **The Grey Witch**. However, he loves Mr. Ochi's beautiful illustrations and is extremely satisfied with the way his characters were brought to life in this comic book.

Art by Yoshihiko Ochi

Mr. Ochi would like to share one of his favorite proverbs with **Lodoss War** readers: *"In looking ahead to the future, one must always reflect upon the past."*

Translated by
Laura Jackson and Yoko Kobayashi

Page Production by
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Edited by C.B. Cebulski

Produced by Stephanie Shalofsky

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Record of Lodoss War: The Grey Witch #1 November 1998. Published by ADV Manga™, a division of Central Park Media Corporation. 250 West 57th St., Suite 317, New York, NY 10107. (212) 977 7456 ext. 241. Entire Contents © 1998 Central Park Media Corporation. Original Japanese Version **Record of the Lodoss War [Deifia No Bouji]** Volume 1 © 1994 Ryo Mizuno/Yoshihiko Ochi. Originally published in Japan in 1994 by KADOKAWA SHOTEN PUBLISHING CO., LTD., Tokyo. English translation rights arranged with KADOKAWA SHOTEN PUBLISHING CO. LTD., Tokyo through TUTTLE-MORI AGENCY, INC., Tokyo. ADV Manga and logo are trademarks of Central Park Media Corporation. All Rights Reserved. ISBN 1-55698-498X. Printed in Canada. 3rd printing.

НИЦ!

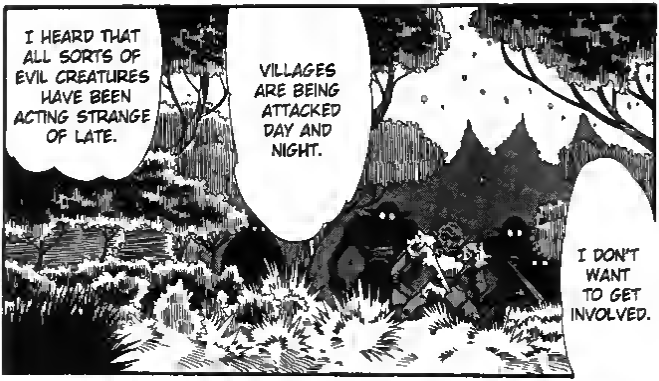
ONE HUNDRED DISTINGUISHED HEROES CHALLENGED THE DARK LABYRINTH OF DEATH.
MANY WHO FOUGHT AGAINST THE FATHOMLESS DARKNESS STILL REMAIN BELOW, AS STONE COLD CORPSES.
HOWEVER...

HUH?
...AT LAST A RAY OF LIGHT REACHED THE DEEPEST DEPTHS OF THE LABYRINTH.
RUSTLE!
THE WORLD WAS SAVED.
SEVEN OF THE HEROES DEFEATED THE GOD OF EVIL. SIX OF THEM SURVIVED.
ONE WAS THE WARRIOR, BELD, THE DARK EMPEROR.
ONE WAS THE KNIGHT, KING FAHN OF VALIS, CLAD IN WHITE ARMOR AND WIELDING A SACRED SWORD.
SHI!

HE LOST HIS SOUL TO THE GOD OF EVIL IN BATTLE.
PIT-PAT!
ONE WAS THE DWARF, KING FLAIVE, THE LAST KING OF THE LOST KINGDOM OF STONE.
ONE WAS THE SAGE AND SORCERER, WORT, WHO POSSESSED INFINITE KNOWLEDGE.
PLOP!
ONE WAS THE MARFA CLERIC, NEESE, WHO WAS DEVOTED TO COMPLYING WITH THE LAWS OF NATURE.
AND THE LAST WAS...
...THE SILENT SORCERER, WARRIOR AND MESSENGER OF LIGHT WHO FLED...
...WITHOUT GIVING HIS NAME. IT WAS HE...
CLANK!
...WHO RESTORED LIGHT TO THE DARK-NESS.

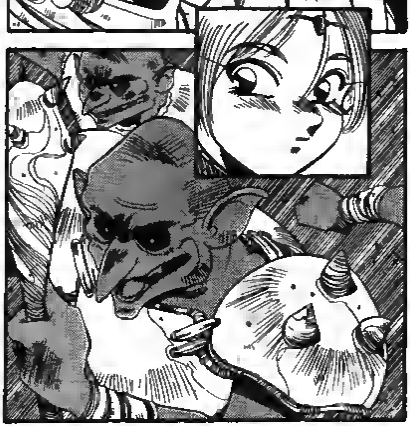
clap! clap! clap!
SO THAT'S THE POEM OF THE SIX HEROES.
THANK YOU FOR LISTENING, ELF.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER HEARD THE WHOLE THING.
IT'S SO RARE TO SEE A HIGH ELF COME OUT OF THE DEEP FOREST.
THERE MUST BE ECCENTRICS AMONG ELVES AS WELL.

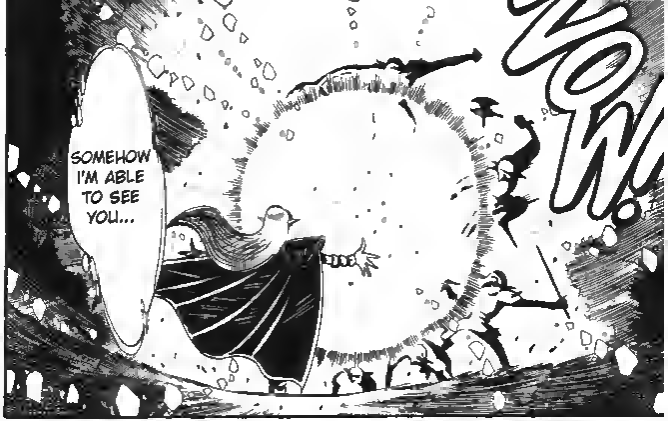
RUSTLE!
HM?
SSHHH. I HEAR SOME-THING.
OH, NO.
GOBLINS!
BUT THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE NOCTURNAL!

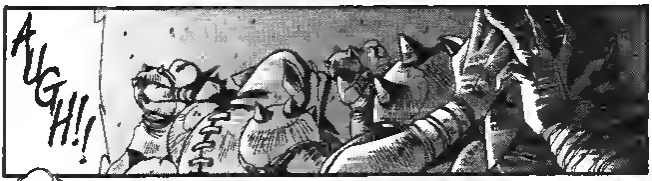

I HEARD THAT ALL SORTS OF EVIL CREATURES HAVE BEEN ACTING STRANGE OF LATE.
VILLAGES ARE BEING ATTACKED DAY AND NIGHT.
I DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED.

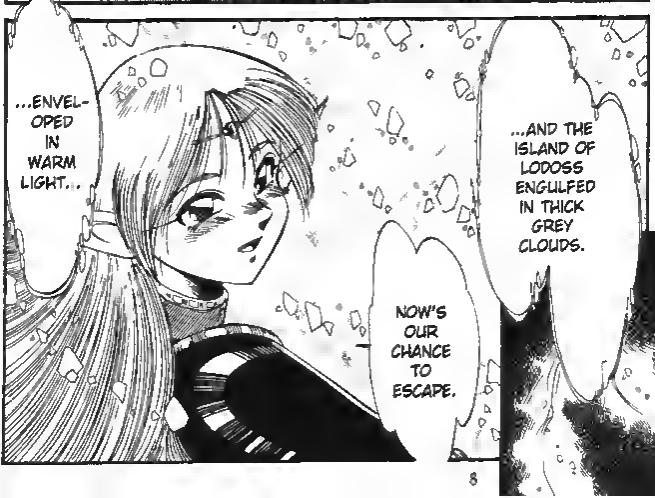
I'M GOING TO SUMMON THE SPIRIT OF LIGHT, WILL-O-WISP. CLOSE YOUR EYES.
DON'T WORRY.

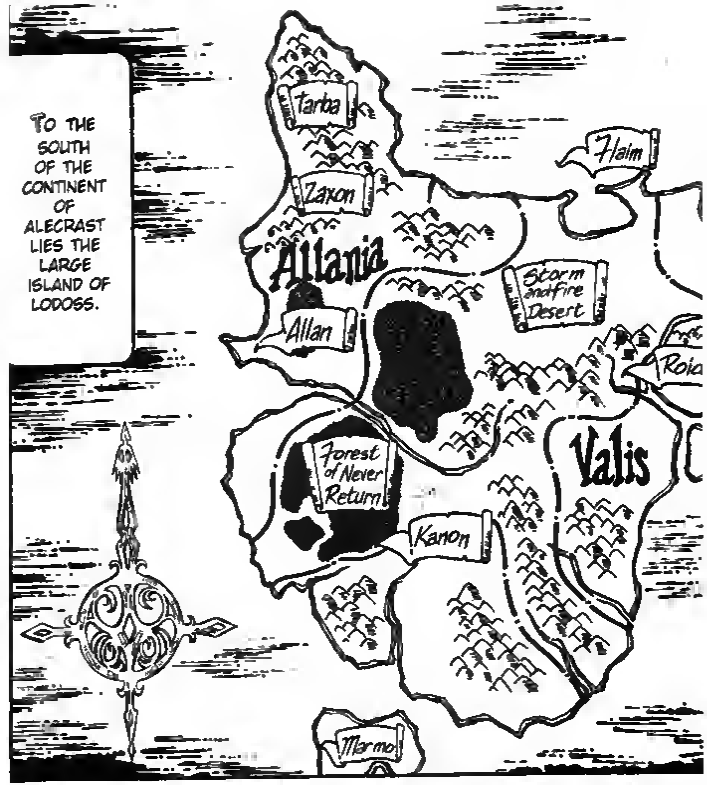
I CAN NOT SEE, EVEN WITH MY EYES OPEN.

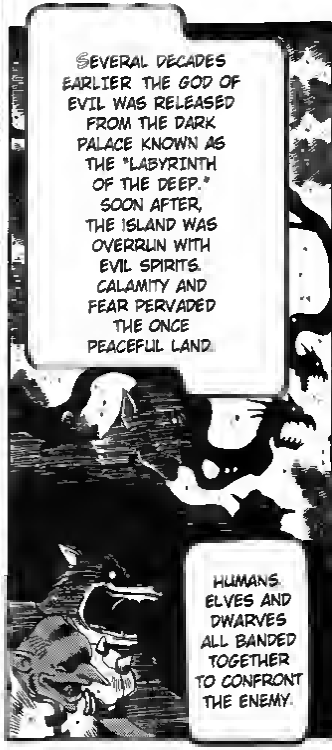



SOMEHOW I'M ABLE TO SEE YOU...
WOW!!


AUGH!!


...ENVELOPED IN WARM LIGHT...
NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO ESCAPE.
...AND THE ISLAND OF LODOSS ENGULFED IN THICK GREY CLOUDS.

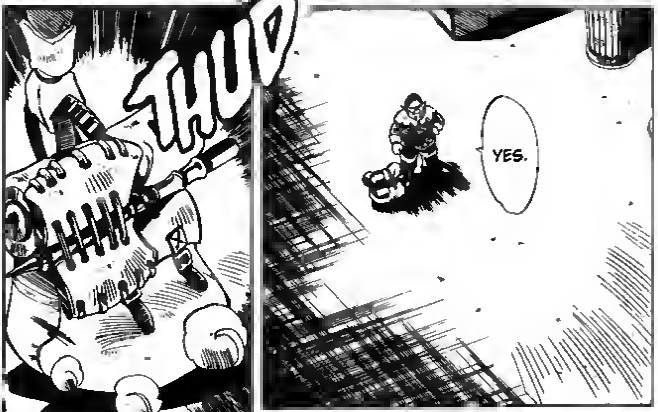

To the south of the continent of Alecrast lies the large island of Lodoss.
Tarba
Zaxon
Flaim
Allania
Storm and Fire Desert
Allan
Forest of Never Return
Kanon
Valis
Marmo
Fire Dragon Mountain
Raiden
Lake Stillness
Glassy Woods
Moss


Several decades earlier the god of evil was released from the dark palace known as the "Labyrinth of the Deep." Soon after, the island was overrun with evil spirits. Calamity and fear pervaded the once peaceful land.
Humans, elves and dwarves all banded together to confront the enemy.

After three long years of war, the god of evil was once again contained this came to be known as the "War against evil," who's story has been passed down by traveling minstrels..

...through the poem of the six heroes.
And now, with the island engulfed in grey clouds, a new poem is about to be written.

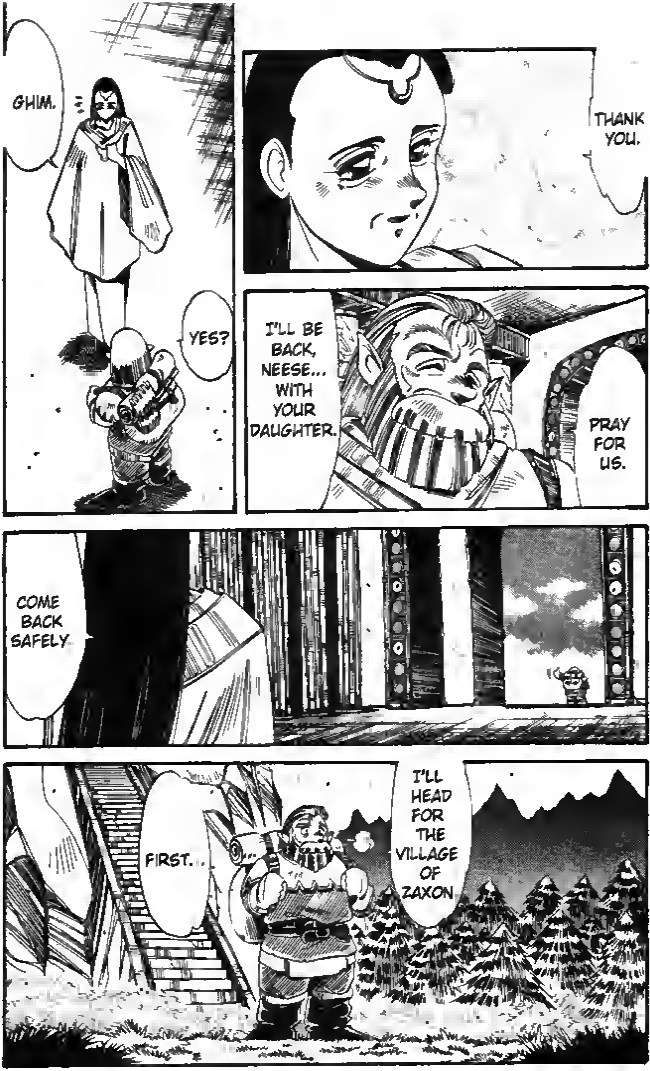
THE SHRINE OF MARFA IN THE KINGDOM OF ALLANIA IN NORTHERN LODOSS
GHIM!
ARE YOU HEADING OUT ON A JOURNEY?


THUD
YES.

WHY?
WHY SO SUDDEN-LY?
NO SPECIAL REASON.
SIMPLY BECAUSE I CHOOSE TO, NEESE.
BECAUSE IF IT'S MY DAUGHTER YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT, THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO.
IS IT LEYLIA?

IT IS THE DUTY OF THOSE WHO SERVE GOD TO HELP THE INJURED.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT I WASN'T...
...AT THE PALACE SEVEN YEARS AGO DURING THE MINING ACCIDENT.
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED IN THE ACCIDENT.
BUT WEREN'T YOU INJURED IN AN ATTEMPT TO SAVE THE OTHERS?
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT THE PALACE WAS ATTACKED AT THE SAME TIME AND LEYLIA WAS TAKEN AWAY.
IT WAS FATE. NO ONE COULD HAVE STOPPED IT.
I'VE ASKED THE GODDESS MARFA ABOUT MY DAUGHTER MANY TIMES.

WHAT DID SHE SAY?
THAT LEYLIA IS ALIVE... BUT SHE DOESN'T EXIST.
IT'S A RIDDLE.
THIS ORDINARY JOURNEY HAS TAKEN ON TREMENDOUS MEANING.
I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT THE RIDDLE ON MY OWN.
BUT I AM DETERMINED TO BRING YOUR DAUGHTER BACK.
HUP!


GHIM.
YES?
THANK YOU.
I'LL BE BACK, NEESE... WITH YOUR DAUGHTER.
PRAY FOR US.
COME BACK SAFELY
FIRST...
I'LL HEAD FOR THE VILLAGE OF ZAXON

I WONDER HOW SLAYN IS DOING.

ZAXON

I ALREADY TOLD YOU!!
TINK!
THUNK.
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO REPEAT MYSELF ?!?
ON MY WAY BACK FROM THE KINGDOM OF FLAIM...
...I SAW MANY VILLAGES UNDER ATTACK BY GOBLINS.

THERE ARE GOBLINS ALL AROUND THIS VILLAGE, TOO!
WE CAN HANDLE THEM IF WE WORK TOGETHER.
IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT NOW, YOU'LL BE SORRY LATER!
BUT PARN...
NOTHING'S HAPPENED YET
PERHAPS THE VILLAGES YOU SAW...
...WERE ATTACKED BECAUSE THE VILLAGERS PROVOKED THE GOBLINS
IT DOESN'T MATTER THAT YOU WERE A SOLDIER IN FLAIM. THE CHANCE OF YOU BEATING 20 GOBLINS IS NIL.
THAT'S WHY I NEED YOUR HELP!

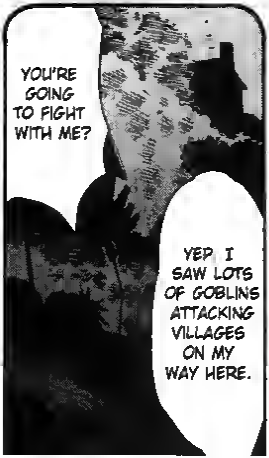
I HEARD YOUR FATHER DIED TRYING TO FIGHT 30 BANDITS SINGLE-HANDEDLY.
SHUT UP, MODO!
AND WHAT'S MORE, I HEARD HE WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF DESERTING HIS DUTY AS A KNIGHT.
IT'S A RUMOR. JUST A RUMOR.
ARE YOU ...
...INSULTING MY FATHER?!?
HANG!

PARN, LET'S ALL TRY TO GET ALONG
I KNOW! I'M LEAVING, MAYOR!
TAK! TAK!
SLAM
HUMPH !!
I CAN TELL BY YOUR EYES YOU'RE GOING TO TRY TO FIGHT THEM YOURSELF.
ETOH ?!
HI.

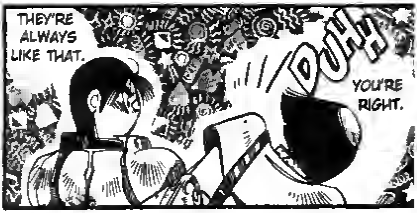
IT'S BEEN FOUR YEARS, HASN'T IT? WHEN DID YOU GET BACK?
I WAS JUST PASSING BY THE TAVERN. .
JIGGER JIGGER.
WHEN I HEARD A BOOMING VOICE AND THOUGHT, THAT MUST BE PARN.
Cough!
YOU'RE AS STRONG AS EVER.
S .SORRY.
YOU'RE WEARING PHARIS MONESTARY ROBES.
YEP! I JUST FINISHED FOUR YEARS OF RELIGIOUS TRAINING. .
.. AND AM NOW A FULL-FLEDGED PHARIS PRIEST.
BUT IT'S STILL MY DUTY TO PREACH IN THE STREETS AND MEETING HALLS.
BY THE WAY...

IS IT TRUE THAT GOBLINS ARE NEARING THIS VILLAGE?
YES. BUT THE PEOPLE HERE AREN'T WILLING TO FIGHT.
THAT'S UNDER-STANDABLE. THEY'RE NOT USED TO FIGHTING.

I THINK I CAN HELP YOU SINCE I'VE HAD MARTIAL ARTS TRAINING AT THE MONESTARY.


YOU'RE GOING TO FIGHT WITH ME?
YEP. I SAW LOTS OF GOBLINS ATTACKING VILLAGES ON MY WAY HERE.

IT'S STRANGE. THE GOBLINS SEEMED SO BLOOD THIRSTY.
WE HAVE TO DO SOME-THING.


THEY'RE ALWAYS LIKE THAT.
DUH!
YOU'RE RIGHT.

THERE'S A GUARD.
BOWS OR SLINGS OR SOMETHING...
IT'S A GOOD THING WE CAME TO SCOUT THE AREA FIRST. WE'RE GOING TO NEED PROJECTILE WEAPONS.
THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT.
KLANG
KLANG
THEY'RE STARTING TO STIR.
OH, NO!!

WE HAVE UNTIL SUNSET!!
BUT THEY'RE MOVING!
AND THEY HAVE WEAPONS !!
HOOOWW!!
KLANG!
KLANG!
KLANG!
KLANG!
JUST AS I THOUGHT, THEY'RE HEADING FOR THE VILLAGE!!
PARN... WAIT!!

CLANK
!
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!!
SHUUUUU
HE'S OUT OF CONTROL.
KLANK-KLANK!

PROTECT US, PHARIS, GOD OF LIGHT!
LEAP!

KLINK! KLANK!
HUH?
AAAAUGH! WHOOOOA!!
THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE AN ORDINARY ARGUMENT...
OH, MY!
RUSTLE!
TMP TMP TMP
!
GOBLINS!!
THEIVES WHO SOLD THEIR SOULS TO THE GOD OF DARK-NESS!!

SLASH
HUFF HUFF!!
ETOH !!
SORRY I GOT YOU INVOLVED IN THIS! I CAN FINISH THEM OFF MYSELF.
BUT YOU'RE OUT OF BREATH, PARN.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. RUN!!
PARN !!
KLANG!
DAMN !!
SWISH!

To Be Continued...

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All Ages

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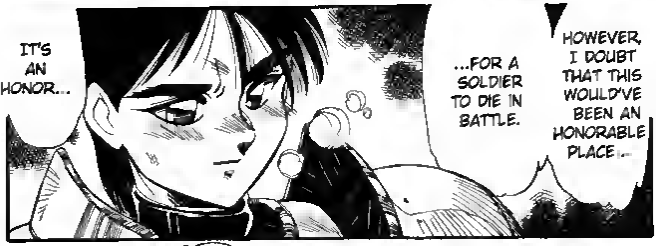
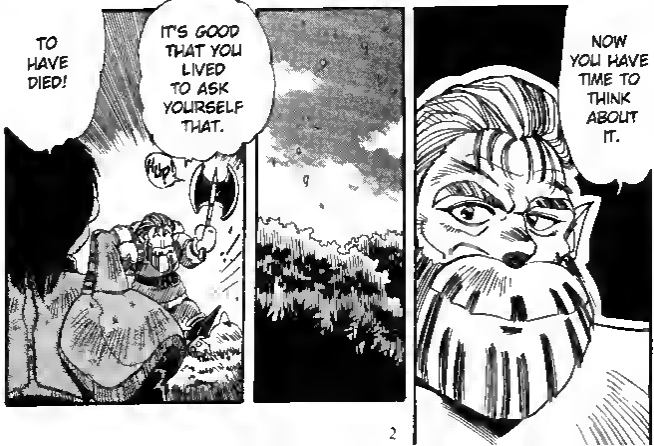
WOOSH!
THUD!
LOOKS LIKE I GOT HERE JUST IN TIME.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, YOUNG MAN?

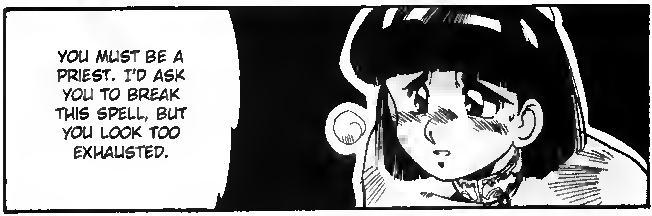
HUFF!
WE'RE SAVED
KLANG

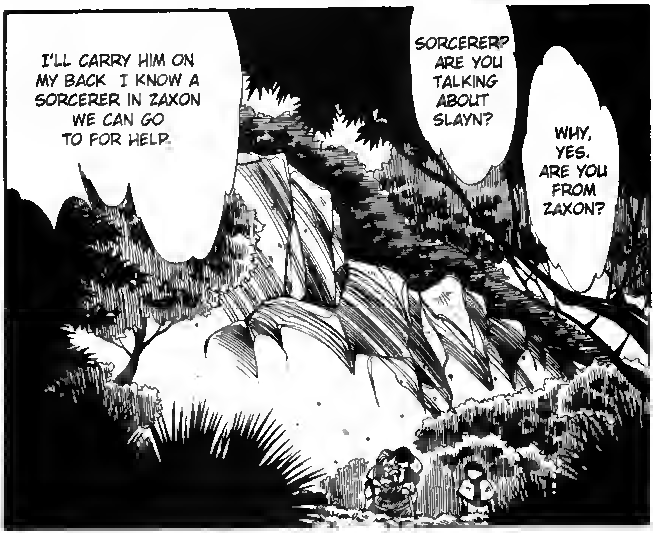

IT'S AN HONOR...
...FOR A SOLDIER TO DIE IN BATTLE.
HOWEVER, I DOUBT THAT THIS WOULD'VE BEEN AN HONORABLE PLACE...


TO HAVE DIED!
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU LIVED TO ASK YOURSELF THAT.
Hup!
NOW YOU HAVE TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT.

TIME ?
THUNK!!
PAIN !?!
WHAT'S THIS?

IT'S COATED WITH POISON!
THOSE WICKED GOBLINS!
WHAT'LL WE DO?


YOU MUST BE A PRIEST. I'D ASK YOU TO BREAK THIS SPELL, BUT YOU LOOK TOO EXHAUSTED.

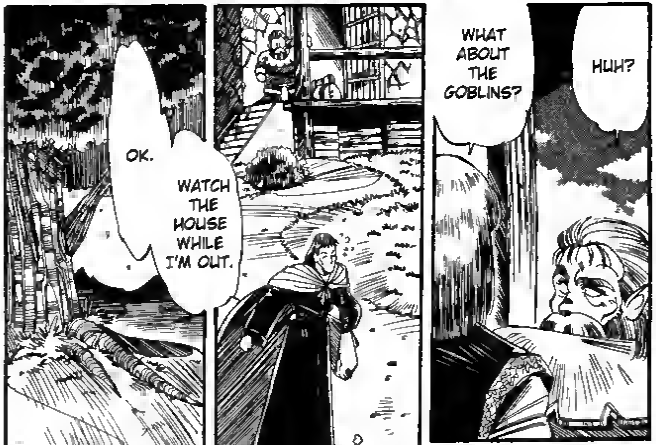

I'LL CARRY HIM ON MY BACK. I KNOW A SORCERER IN ZAXON WE CAN GO TO FOR HELP.
SORCERER? ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT SLAYN?
WHY, YES. ARE YOU FROM ZAXON?

WHEN WAS PARN AT THE TAVERN?
SOME-TIME AROUND HIGH NOON
I'D BETTER FOLLOW HIM.
IT'S JUST LIKE HIM TO TAKE OFF ON HIS OWN.
THAT'S NOT GOOD

TUNK!
I'M SORRY, MASTER.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'M A CITIZEN OF THIS VILLAGE, TOO.
TMP TMP
TMP TMP TMP TMP
SLAYN!! ARE YOU IN?!
GHUM?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
NEVER MIND THAT NOW!
A YOUNG MAN NAMED PARN WAS JUST ATTACKED BY GOBLINS. HE NEEDS YOUR HELP.

WHERE IS HE NOW?
AT HIS HOME.
THE GOBLINS POISONED HIM. BRING AN ANTIDOTE.

THAT'S REALLY NOT MY FIELD.
BUT DON'T YOU HAVE...
...ALL SORTS OF WITCH-CRAFT POTIONS ?


OK.
WATCH THE HOUSE WHILE I'M OUT.
WHAT ABOUT THE GOBLINS?
HUH?

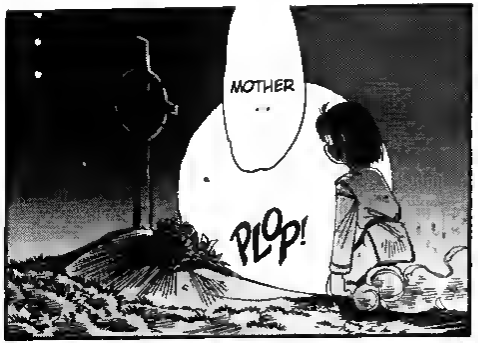
HMMM... YOU'RE MORE WORRIED ABOUT GOBLINS THAN VILLAGERS.
RELAX. THEY'D ALREADY BEEN DEALT WITH WHEN I GOT THERE.

IT'S AN HONOR...
...FOR A SOLDIER TO DIE IN BATTLE.

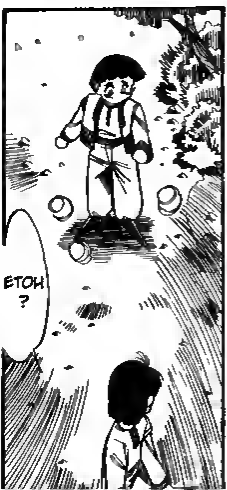
THOK
THOK
MOTHER
YES?
MY DADDY FOUGHT AGAINST BANDITS BECAUSE...
...HE WAS A KNIGHT.

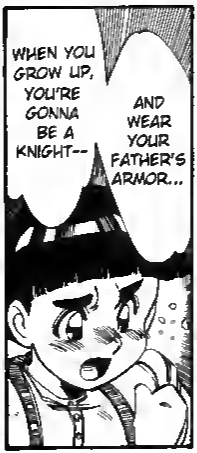
THAT'S WHY HE FOUGHT, RIGHT?
WHY DOES EVERYBODY SAY BAD THINGS ABOUT HIM? WHY?
TELL ME, MOTHER!
PARN ..
THE BLOOD OF TESSIUS, YOUR FATHER. .
..SACRED KNIGHT OF VALIS, FLOWS THROUGH YOUR VEINS.

YOU MUST BELIEVE IN. .
...THE VALIANT BLOOD OF YOUR FATHER.
VALIANT ?
MOTHER ?


MOTHER
..
PLOP!

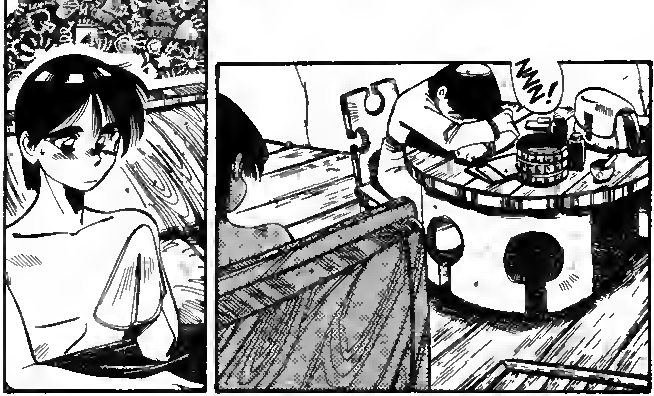
PARN
!!

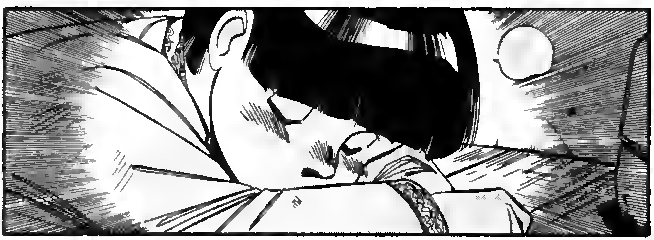

ETOH
?


WHEN YOU GROW UP, YOU'RE GONNA BE A KNIGHT--
AND WEAR YOUR FATHER'S ARMOR...

.. AND NEVER LET THE GOBLIN'S POISON..
..DEFEAT YOU!!

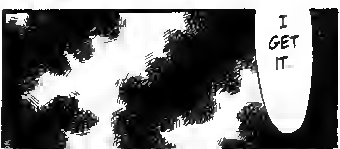
PARN
//
YOU CAN'T DIE!
!
HUP!
UNH--
POP!


WHR!



GOWN

I WAS...

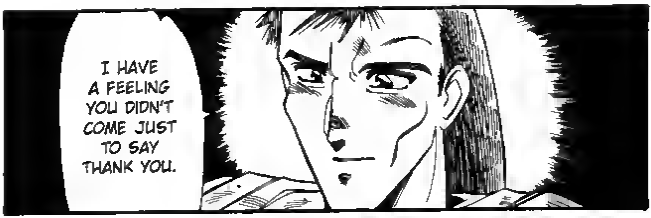

I GET IT

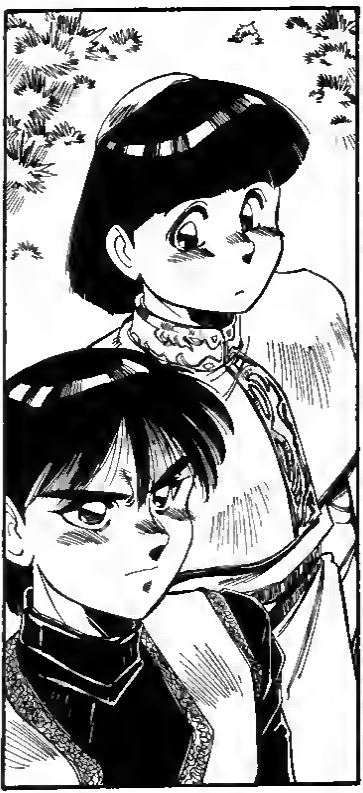
SCRAPE! SCRAPE!
YOU'RE AWFULLY EAGER TO HELP
HUH? ARE YOU GOING BACK AGAIN?
ARE YOU MAKING A COMB?
PARN'S STRENGTH ...
.. HAS RETURNED FOR NOW. BUT...
YES. WE DWARVES ARE ACTUALLY FINE CRAFTS-MEN.

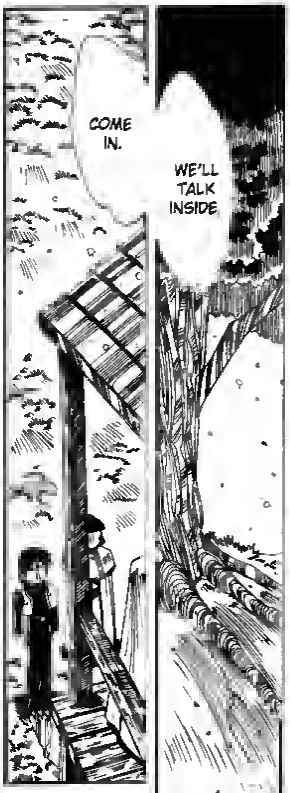
tak!
LONG AGO ...
DDD
WHEN I WAS STILL AT PHILO-SOPHY SCHOOL IN ALLAN..
HE HAD A STRONG SENSE OF JUSTICE
...I HAD A FRIEND WHO WAS A SOLDIER.
REMIND ME OF HIS.
PARN'S EYES..

SCRAPE!
I GUESS WHAT I MEAN IS...
I DON'T WANT THINGS TO END THE SAME WAY FOR HIM.
EVEN THOUGH WE MOURN, THE DEAD NEVER COME BACK.
HUH?
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.
YOUNG MAN! YOU'RE WOBBLING!!

ARE YOU WELL ENOUGH TO BE WALKING AROUND?
I JUST WANTED TO THANK YOU
HA! A BABY CAN WALK BETTER THAN YOU!
GOOD GOD, YOU'RE A FOOLISH LAD!
THAT'S YOUTH FOR YA!
GHIM!
HO HO HO HO!


I HAVE A FEELING YOU DIDN'T COME JUST TO SAY THANK YOU.



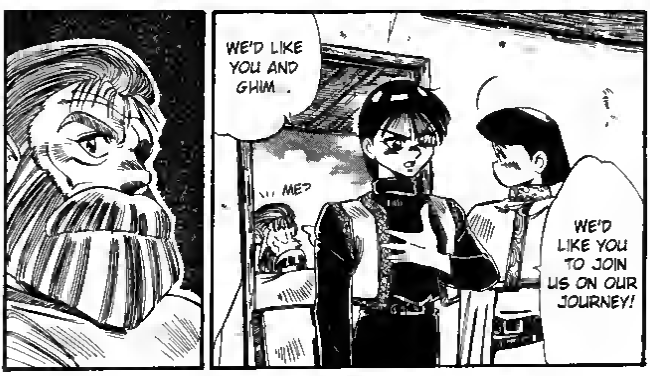

COME IN.
WE'LL TALK INSIDE

KNIGHT-ERRANTRY ?
YES
HMM
. .THAT I WOULDN'T BE HERE IF THE DWARF HADN'T RESCUED ME
I REALIZED WHEN I WAS FIGHTING THE GOBLINS. . .

I KNOW THERE ARE A LOT OF CREATURES MORE VICIOUS THAN GOBLINS IN LODOSS.
I DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO STAND UP TO THEM RIGHT NOW.

AND AS A PRIEST ...
...I STILL HAVE A LOT TO LEARN AS WELL.

I SEE. SO NOW...
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

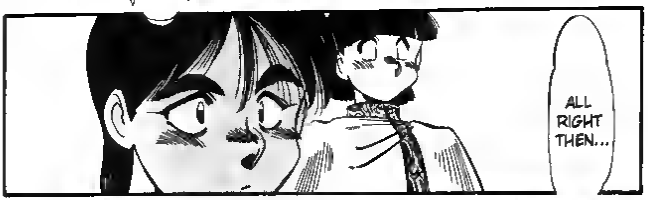

WE'D LIKE YOU AND GHIM...
... ME?
WE'D LIKE YOU TO JOIN US ON OUR JOURNEY!

EVEN THOUGH I'M AN ARDENT SOLDIER..
.. I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO TACKLE THIS ON MY OWN.

WELL ACTUALLY, I WAS JUST GETTING READY TO HEAD OUT ANYWAY
IF SLAYN'S STILL GOT SOME TRICKS UP HIS SLEEVE, WE SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE WITH PROVISIONS.

NOT TRICKS, MY FRIEND. MAGIC!
HEY ARE YOU EXPECTING ME TO DO STREET PERFORM-ANCES?
HO! HO! HO!
EVEN IF I TRY TO STOP HIM...

...HE WON'T LISTEN TO ME.
JUST LIKE MY OLD FRIEND.


ALL RIGHT THEN...

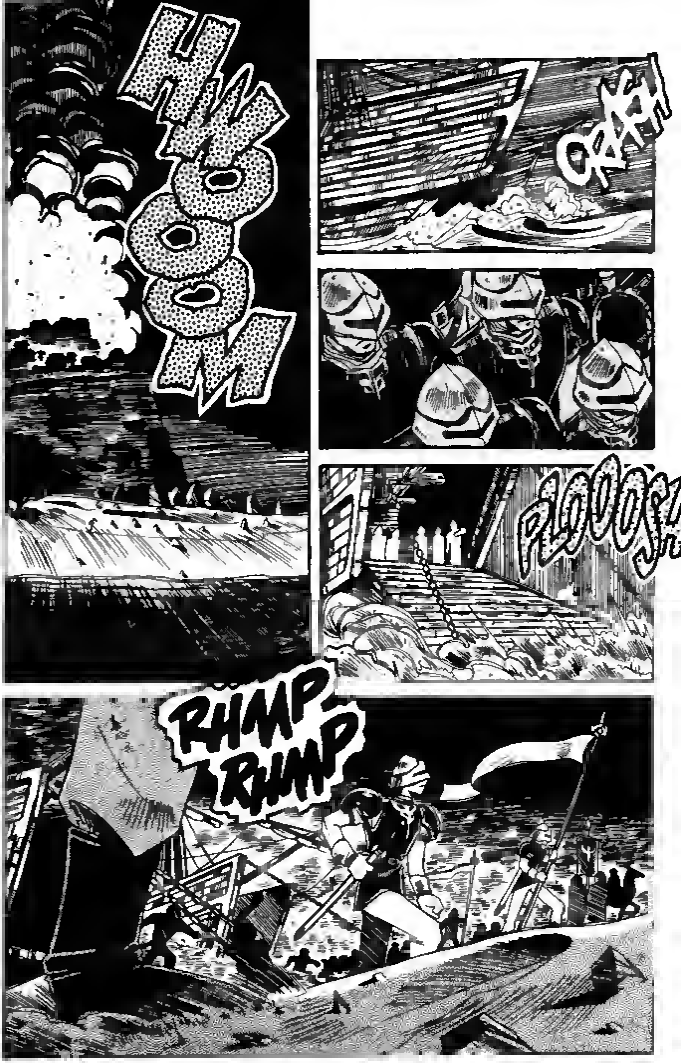
I'LL JOIN YOU AS WELL.
I MAY BE ABLE TO HELP IN SOME WAY.
BUT LET'S TRY TO AVOID DANGER WHENEVER POSSIBLE.
I'M A LITTLE JITTERY.

THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LODOSS ISLAND
HUH?
A FORTRESS ON THE COAST OF KANON
WHAT'RE THOSE LIGHTS?
HMM...
ARE THEY FISHING BOATS?
NO THERE ARE TOO MANY FOR THAT.

LOOK!!
BATTLESHIPS FROM THE DARK ISLAND OF MARMO
!

WH. . WHAT THE...?

SHU
KABOOM


KHSH
OKA
PLOOSH
RHMP RHMP

CLOP
RRUK
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Story by Ryo Mizuno Art by Yoshihiko Ochi

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RECORD OF LODOSS WAR

The Grey Witch

Story by Ryo Mizuno

Ryo Mizuno is the world renowned creator of the entire **Record of the Lodoss War** universe. The story you now hold in your hands, **The Grey Witch** is the first **Lodoss War** story Mr. Mizuno ever wrote. Looking back at all his works, he feels that **The Grey Witch** is the most primitive, from his standpoint as its writer. For this reason, Mr. Mizuno says that he often gets embarrassed after re-reading **The Grey Witch**. However, he loves Mr. Ochi's beautiful illustrations and is extremely satisfied with the way his characters were brought to life in this comic book.

Art by Yoshihiko Ochi

Mr. Ochi would like to share one of his favorite proverbs with **Lodoss War** readers: *"In looking ahead to the future, one must always reflect upon the past."*

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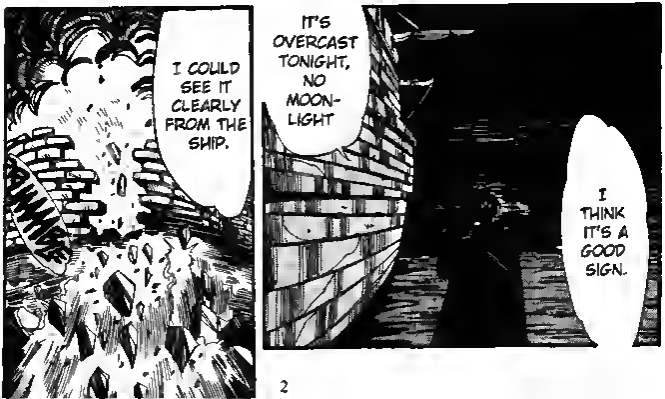
SURELY YOU'RE NOT GOING TO THE BATTLEFIELD, YOUR MAJESTY?
KARLA?
HSS
ARE YOU SUGGESTING I STAY AT MARMO CASTLE AND NAP WITH THOSE FILTHY CREATURES?
IF YOU KNEW HOW, YOU COULD GET THEM TO HELP YOU FIGHT.

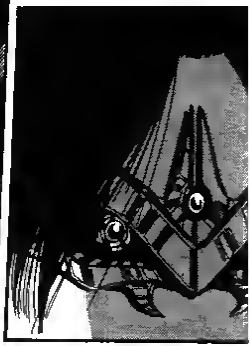
IN THEORY, PERHAPS.
YOU JUST BLEW UP THAT FORT, DIDN'T YOU?
JUST A TINY ONE.

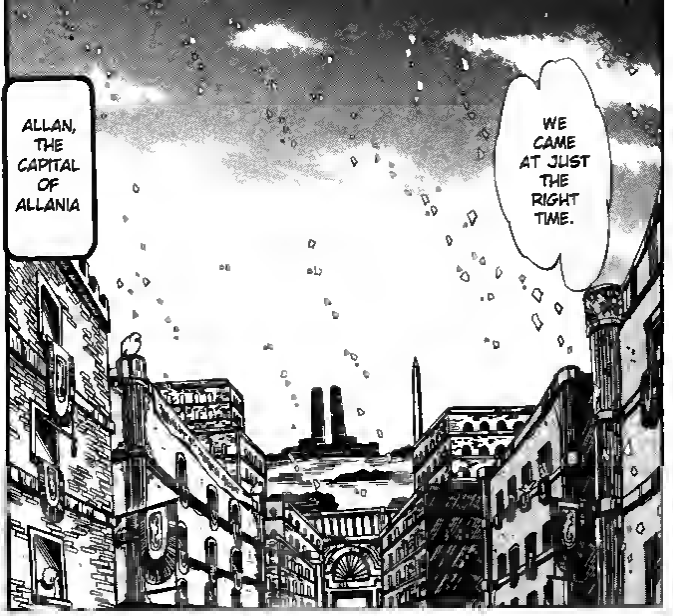
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO HAVE TO BOTHER WITH IT, YOUR MAJESTY.


I COULD SEE IT CLEARLY FROM THE SHIP.
IT'S OVERCAST TONIGHT, NO MOON-LIGHT
I THINK IT'S A GOOD SIGN.

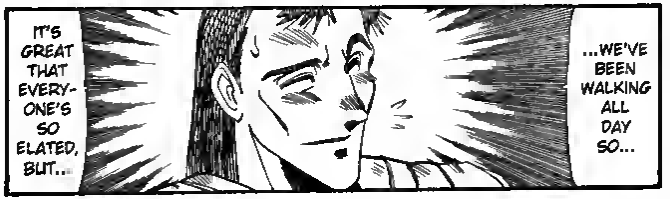
THE FIRST ARROW HAS BEEN SHOT.
SHINING HILL'S THRONE AT KANON PALACE...
...AWAITS YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.
THE FALL OF KANON IS ONLY THE FIRST STEP.
I INTEND TO RULE...

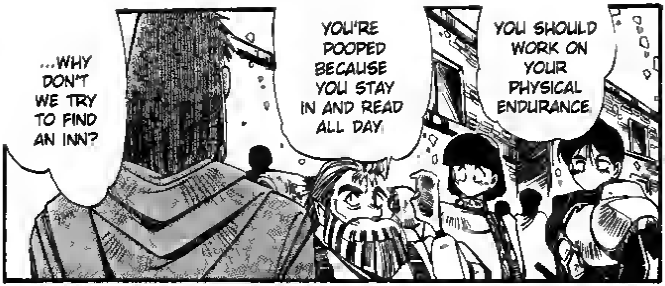
THE ENTIRE ISLAND OF LODOSS !!



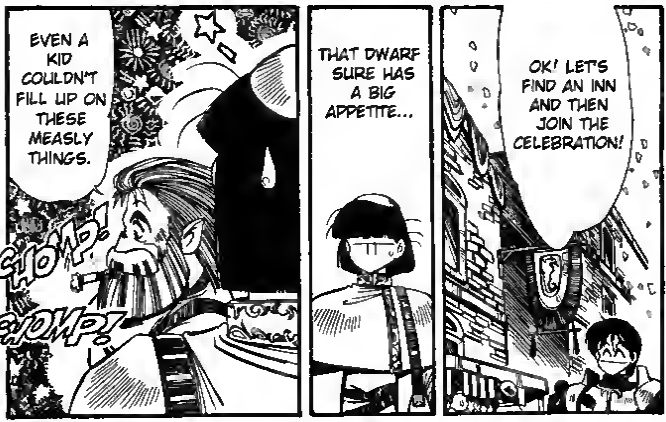

ALLAN, THE CAPITAL OF ALLANIA
WE CAME AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME.

A BABY PRINCE WAS BORN TO KING KADOMOS VII.
THE ROYAL THRONE IS SECURE


IT'S GREAT THAT EVERY-ONE'S SO ELATED, BUT...
...WE'VE BEEN WALKING ALL DAY SO...

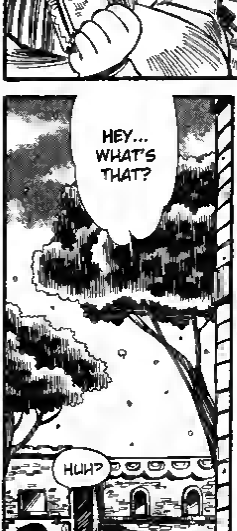

...WHY DON'T WE TRY TO FIND AN INN?
YOU'RE POOPED BECAUSE YOU STAY IN AND READ ALL DAY.
YOU SHOULD WORK ON YOUR PHYSICAL ENDURANCE.

WELL ...
"YOU CAN'T REASON ON AN EMPTY STOMACH..."
LET'S FIND AN INN AND EAT.
I AGREE. I'M TOO HUNGRY TO KEEP GOING.
BUT GHIM... AREN'T YOU ON YOUR THIRD CHICKEN THIGH?
GULP!


EVEN A KID COULDN'T FILL UP ON THESE MEASLY THINGS.
CHOMP!
CHOMP!
THAT DWARF SURE HAS A BIG APPETITE...
OK! LET'S FIND AN INN AND THEN JOIN THE CELEBRATION!

WHERE'S SLAYN?
HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO SOME PHILO-SOPHICAL UNIVERSITY.
AH, YES... HE USED TO GO TO SCHOOL HERE IN ALLAN.
MAYBE HE WENT TO SEE AN OLD TEACHER.
LET'S JOIN THE FESTIVITIES!!
LAP
UNBOOO

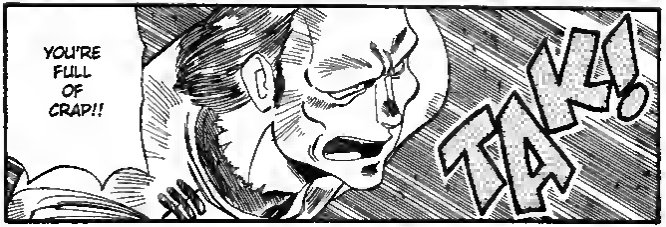
SLAYN COULD MAKE A LOT OF MONEY PERFORMING HERE.
PARN, YOU'RE MAKING GOO GOO EYES.

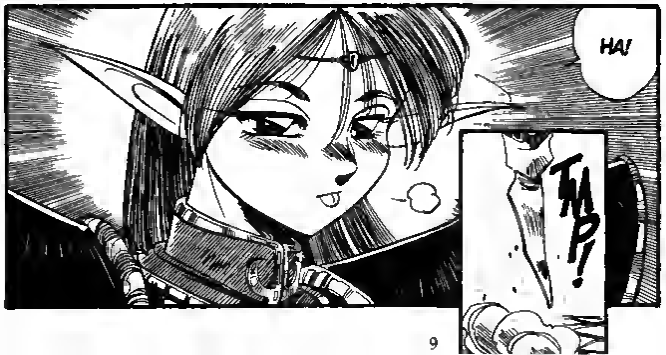

HEY... WHAT'S THAT?
HUH?

LOOKS LIKE A FIGHT.

IT'S A WOMAN!
KLANK! KLANK!

HA!
IF YOU KEEP FIGHTING LIKE SUCH A SISSY, YOU'LL NEVER LAY A FINGER ON ME!


YOU'RE FULL OF CRAP!!
TAK!!


HA!
TAP!

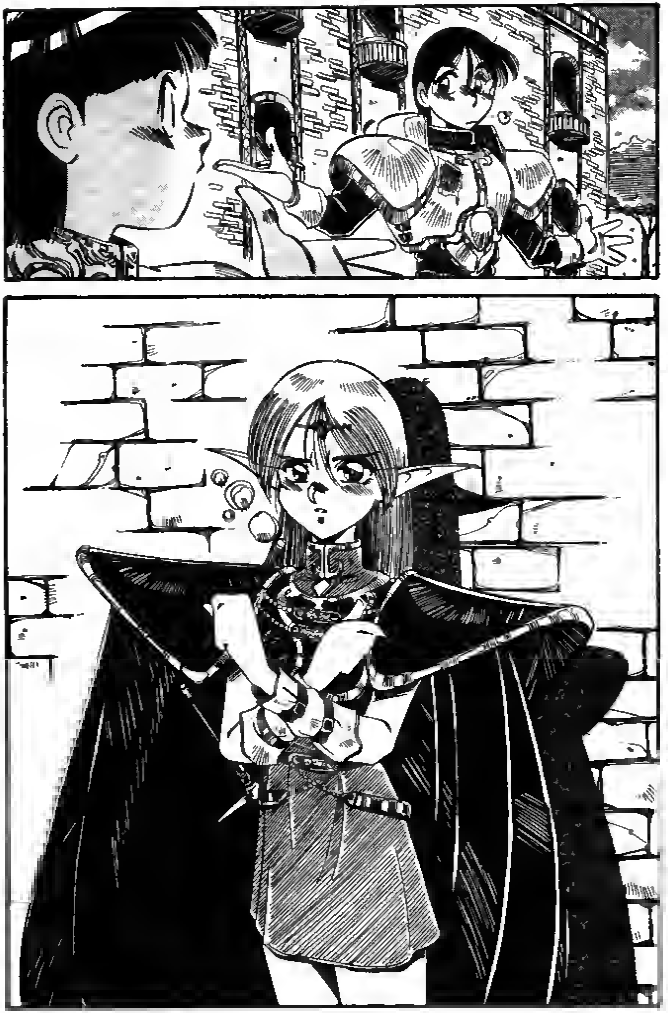
SSSHU
HAP!
ALIGH!
TINK!
TINK!
ANOTHER ONE!?

HUP!
WHIFF!
DAMN!
HOW'D I MISS?!
CALM DOWN! I'M ON YOUR SIDE!!
EH?
HUP

PARN!!
ZAM!
!
FOW!
AAIEE!!!

UH...
YAAK!
WHAT'S A BIG GUY LIKE YOU DOIN'...
...PICKING ON A LADY?!
THUNK

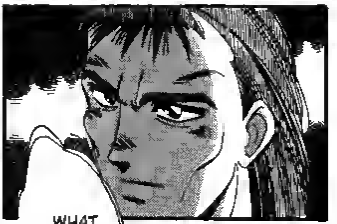
YIPE!
THUD
ARE YOU...
!
HAH!
=>COUGH:<
=>COUGH:<
ARE YOU HURT ?
WHOOSH!

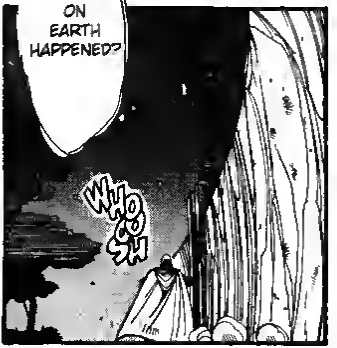


WHO ARE THEY?
HE SAID HE WAS ON MY SIDE...
?
OH MY! SHE'S...

WHAT'S...

...GOING ON HERE? THE WALLS OF THE CAMPUS HAVE BEEN NEGLECTED.


WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?


WHOOSH

OH, MAJESTIC GATE THAT SHIELDS US FROM ALL ATTACKS...
SWING WIDE YOUR LOFTY DOORS
SAMALUGAN!!
KREEEK

HUH?
SHE'S AN ELF.
BING!
I GUESS I SHOULD THANK YOU.

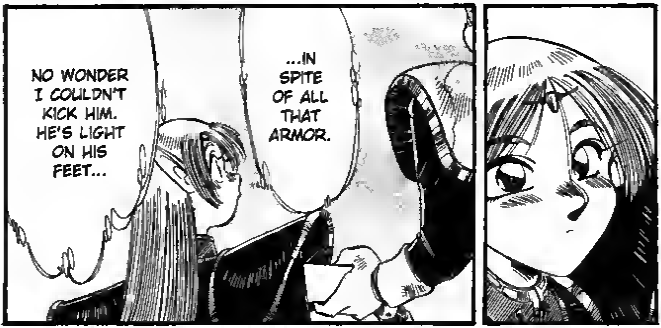
WHAT'S WITH HIM?
UHHH... I'M JUST DOING MY DUTY.
EH!? UHH...NO NEED PRETTY LADY...
HUH!?

YOU'RE MAKING GOO GOO EYES AGAIN AND TURNING RED!
SHE COULD'VE EASILY HANDLED THEM WITHOUT YOUR HELP.
tak!
GHIM
!
A DWARF !!
WHAT DO YOU WANT, YOU BUMPKIN!?
THOSE TWO ARE WITH ME.
?

ELVES ARE FOREST FOLK AND WILL OUTLIVE US ALL.
SHE COULD'VE EASILY KNOCKED THOSE GUYS OUT.
SHUT YOUR MOUTH OR I'LL SHUT IT FOR YOU!!
THEY'RE FAST AND SNEAKY.
AND THEY'RE TOO ARRO-GANT.
I'LL BET YOU STARTED THAT FIGHT..
DIDN'T YOU, LITTLE MISS ELF?
Yank!
EH!?

YOU'VE SAID ENOUGH, GHIM!
THAT WAS RUDE!
WOW! HE'S QUICK!

OOP.


NO WONDER I COULDN'T KICK HIM. HE'S LIGHT ON HIS FEET...
...IN SPITE OF ALL THAT ARMOR.

HE MOVES WELL FOR A HUMAN..
...AND HE'S YOUNG, BUT HE SEEMS TO BE AN EXPERIENCED FIGHTER.

HMM ..I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. SORRY.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE YOU ANGRY, PARN. I'M SORRY.
OUCH. HE DOESN'T KNOW HIS OWN STRENGTH.

I'LL BE GOING BACK TO THE INN NOW.
I'M NO GOOD WITH ELVES.

GHIM! I'M COMING WITH YOU!
WHAT?!

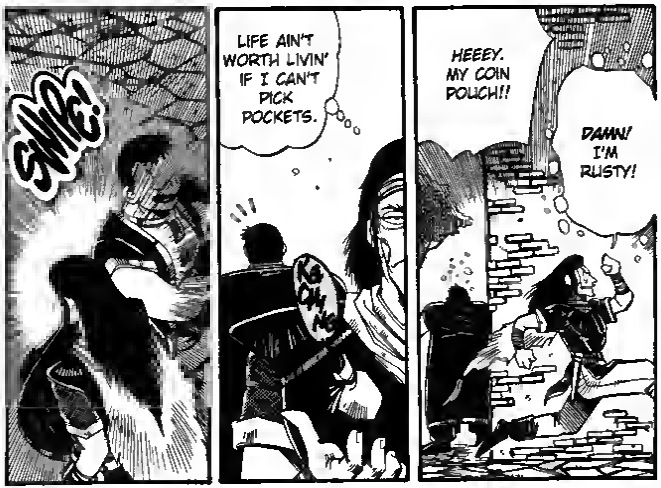
SEE YOU LATER, PARN!
E...ETOH? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
GKRIPP
OH!! I...I'M SORRY.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO SQUEEZE SO HARD.
SHU!
IT'S ABOUT TIME.

SNAP! SNAP!
AH.
AH HAH HAH HAH HAH!
HA HA HA HA
OH BOY...

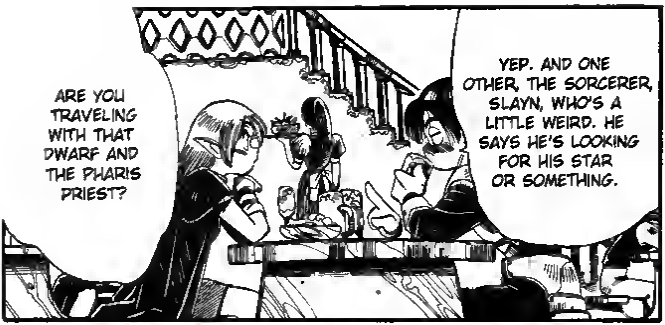
I'M DEEDLIT.
I'M...
YOU'RE PARN, RIGHT?
LET ME TREAT YOU TO DINNER FOR HELPING ME.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK I DON'T HAVE ANY MANNERS
UHHH... SURE.
DEAL!
EVERYONE'S AT THE FESTIVAL, SO THERE SHOULD BE LOTS OF PLACES TO CHOOSE FROM.

HMPH! I DON'T GIVE A RAT'S ASS ABOUT ANY CELEBRATION
THE LOUSY KID OF A KING WHO PUT ME IN THE SLAMMER FOR 20 YEARS...

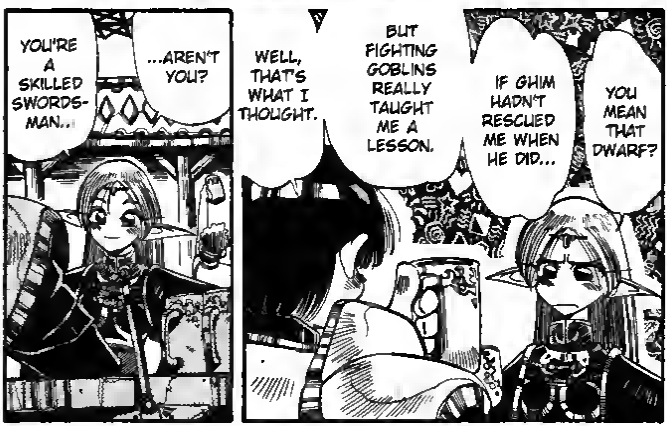
...FOR A PETTY LITTLE THEFT!!

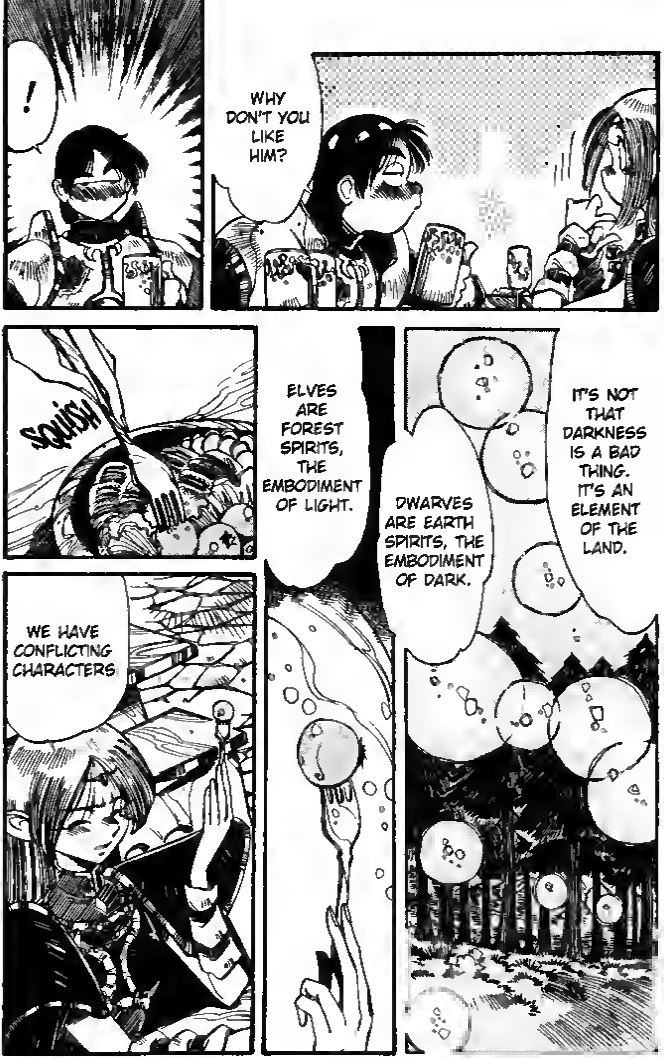

SMACK!
LIFE AIN'T WORTH LIVIN' IF I CAN'T PICK POCKETS.
KRONG
HEEEY. MY COIN POUCH!!
DAMN! I'M RUSTY!

HERE'S TO ALLANIA!!
HERE'S TO KING KADOMOS VII!!
SO, YOU'RE ON A JOURNEY, HUH?
YEP!


ARE YOU TRAVELING WITH THAT DWARF AND THE PHARIS PRIEST?
YEP. AND ONE OTHER, THE SORCERER, SLAYN, WHO'S A LITTLE WEIRD. HE SAYS HE'S LOOKING FOR HIS STAR OR SOMETHING.

YOU NEED MORE THAN A SWORD TO FIGHT SOME OF THESE CREATURES ON LODOSS
AND I DON'T KNOW SORCERY.
SO THAT'S WHY HE CAME WITH US.


YOU'RE A SKILLED SWORDS-MAN..
...AREN'T YOU?
WELL, THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
BUT FIGHTING GOBLINS REALLY TAUGHT ME A LESSON.
IF GHIM HADN'T RESCUED ME WHEN HE DID...
YOU MEAN THAT DWARF?


!
WHY DON'T YOU LIKE HIM?
SQUISH
ELVES ARE FOREST SPIRITS, THE EMBODIMENT OF LIGHT.
DWARVES ARE EARTH SPIRITS, THE EMBODIMENT OF DARK.
IT'S NOT THAT DARKNESS IS A BAD THING. IT'S AN ELEMENT OF THE LAND.
WE HAVE CONFLICTING CHARACTERS

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
.....
UHHH... I KINDA DO AND KINDA DON'T.
HEY! I'VE GOT AN IDEA, DEEDO.
IT'S DEEDLIT, BUT YOU CAN CALL ME DEED.
AND NOT ONLY GHIM. ETOH AND SLAYN WERE KIND ENOUGH TO TAKE THIS JOURNEY WITH ME TOO.
BUT GHIM'S A GOOD GUY.
EVERY-ONE HAS THEIR OWN GOALS, BUT...

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RECORD OF LODOSS WAR

The Grey Witch

Story by Ryo Mizuno
Art by Yoshihiko Ochi

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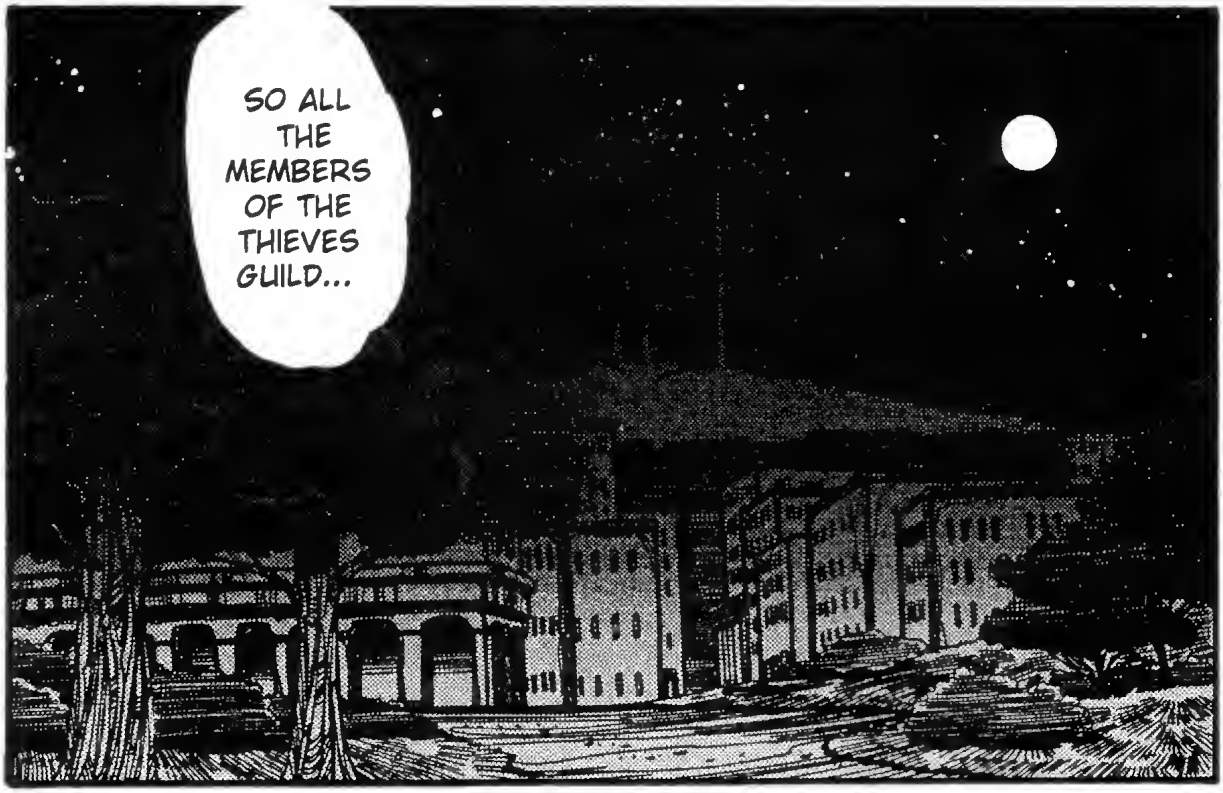
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO VALIS
ISN'T THAT THE KINGDOM OF KING FAHN, HERO OF THE WAR AGAINST EVIL?
YES THE HOLY ORDER OF KNIGHTS IS THERE AS WELL.
MY FATHER WAS A HOLY KNIGHT... BUT HE DIED.
SO, I BECAME A FIGHTER. BUT I'M STILL IN TRAINING.

I WANT TO SEE WHAT MY FATHER WENT THROUGH BY BECOMING A FIGHTER MYSELF.
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN THROUGH, PARN?
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?
ME?
I... I DON'T KNOW...
I CAN'T REALLY SAY... JUST...
NO!
THUD!
...YET.

HEY.
I'M OK.
I'M OK.
DON'T FALL ASLEEP.
I'M ALRIGHT.
YOU WON'T GET BACK IF YOU FALL ASLEEP!!
WHERE IS IT?
THE CRYSTAL FOREST INN.
YOU'RE NOT OK! WHERE ARE YOU STAYING!?

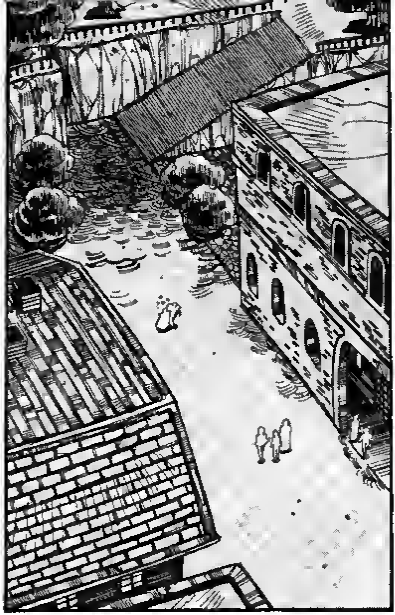

SO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE THIEVES GUILD...

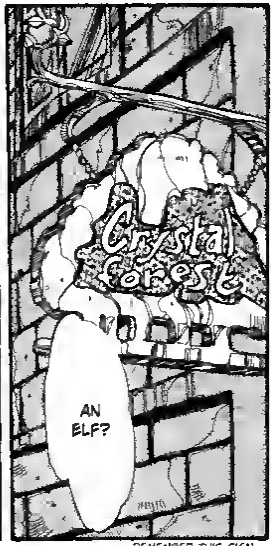
...PAY US A COMMISSION ON THEIR EARNINGS.
IN RETURN, WE PROVIDE SECURITY.

HEH HEH

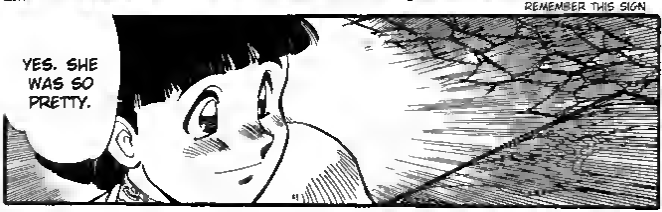
AND WHAT YOU WANT IS TO BE A GUILD OFFICIAL?

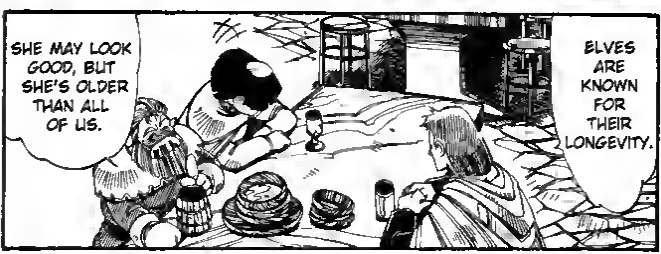
I'M SORRY BUT I CAN'T MAKE AN EXCEPTION FOR YOU.
HERE'S TEN THOUSAND IN GOLD.
THIS SHOULD TIDE YOU OVER.
HEH HEH HEH
THANK YOU.
DAMN
OH, ONE MORE THING.
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN HANDLE IT OR NOT, BUT I HAVE...
. AN INTERESTING PROPOSITION FOR YOU
!





REMEMBER THIS SIGN





JINGLE JINGLE...
HUH?
SNAP OUT OF IT!
I'M FINE.

RATTLE!
THAT'S A REAL ELF. BUT WHAT'S SHE DOING IN A HUMAN VILLAGE?
HE MUST BE...
...THAT SORCERER PARN TOLD ME ABOUT.
HE'S GOT HIS STAFF. I WONDER WHAT HE'S UP TO?
PARN, YOU'RE DRUNK!!
WHY DO I FEEL SO NERVOUS?
IF THIS ELF IS TRYING TO TRAP US, WHAT WILL WE DO?

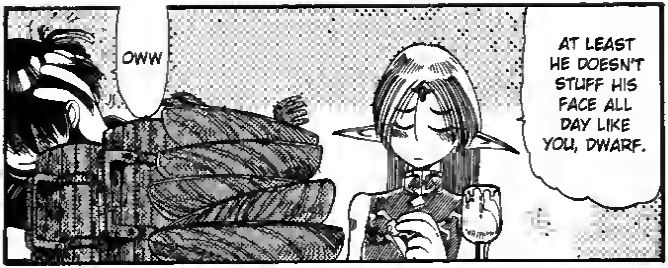
RATTLE!
I'VE GOTTEN SO JUMPY SINCE I LEARNED OF THE FATE OF MY SCHOOL.
EXCUSE ME, YOUNG LADY. I'M SLAYN. WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT YOU.
I'M FINE.
I'M FINE.
THANK YOU FOR BRINGING PARN BACK.
WE'D BEST LET HIM SLEEP IT OFF.
ETOH, TAKE CARE OF HIM.
I'm Fine! I'm Fine!
OK.

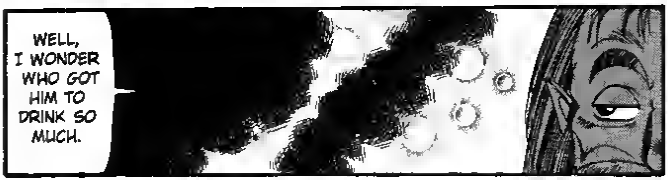
SNAP OUT OF IT!
I'M FINE!
HOW PATHETIC, HIM GETTING DRUNK ON LIQUOR LIKE THAT.
OR DID THAT ELF POISON HIM WITH HER CHARM?
I FEEL SORRY FOR HUMANS THEY DON'T HAVE CAST-IRON STOMACHS LIKE YOU DWARVES DO.
SHE'S GOT YOU THERE, GHIM.
UNLIKE YOU DWARVES, ELVES DON'T USE POISON.
BY THE WAY...

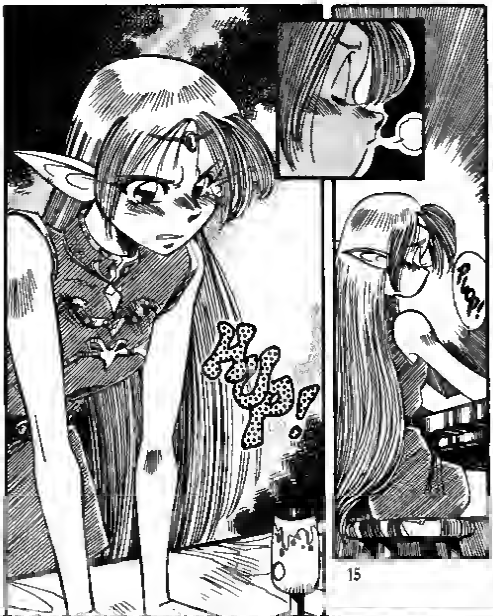
HO! YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF GUTS! I LIKE THAT.
I APOLOGIZE FOR INSULTING YOU
HERE'S TO ANCIENT RIVALS!
EVER SINCE THE WAR AGAINST EVIL ENDED, WE WERE SUPPOSED TO GET ALONG WITH EACH OTHER.
YEAH, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO.
WON'T YOU SIT DOWN?
I'D LIKE TO TALK WITH YOU.
WE'LL TRY NOT TO BE RUDE LIKE BEFORE.
OK.

I NEED A PARTNER.
BUT NOT A THIEF. I NEED A TOUGH WARRIOR.
IF I PULL THIS JOB OFF...
IT WON'T BE LONG 'TIL I'M ROLLIN' IN DOUGH!!
POP!
BUT FIRST I GOTTA GET ME SOME GRUB.
CRYSTAL FOREST

-SUNNH-
YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.
THAT HANG-OVER SERVES YOU RIGHT.
GLOP!


OWW
AT LEAST HE DOESN'T STUFF HIS FACE ALL DAY LIKE YOU, DWARF.


WELL, I WONDER WHO GOT HIM TO DRINK SO MUCH.


GRRR!
HEY, RELAX.
Pow!

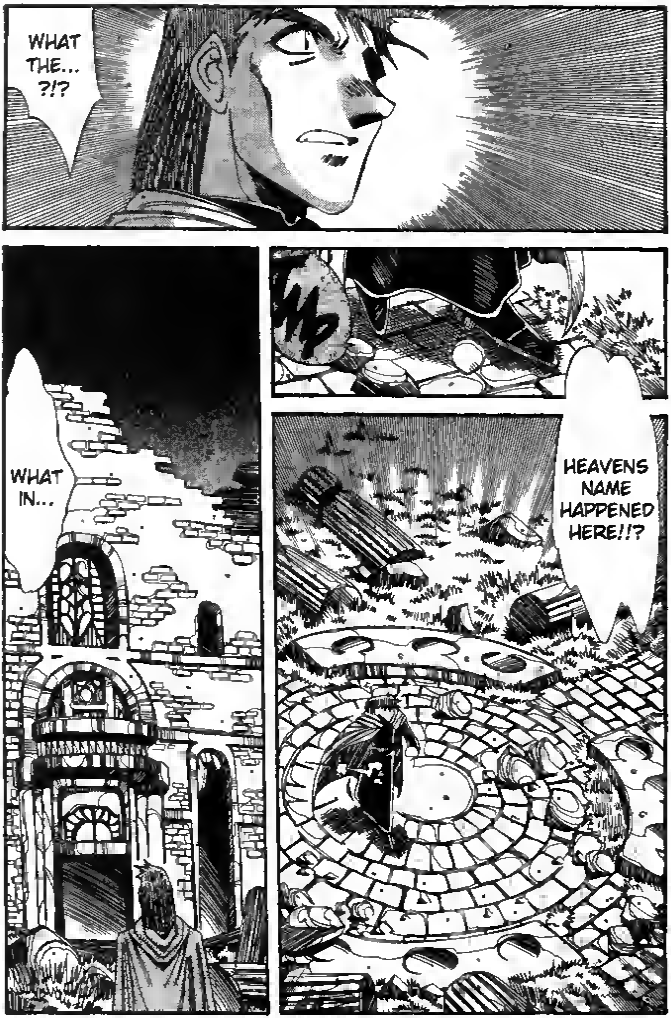
HIS HANGOVER IS HIS OWN FAULT.
JINGLE! JINGLE!
LOOKS LIKE A THIEF!

IT'S NO SURPRISE THESE GUYS ARE WANDERING AROUND. ALLAN HAS A THIEVES GUILD.
GIMME SOMTHIN' COOL.
WHAT'S WRONG, SLAYN?
NO, I JUST FINISHED.
WHAT WAS HE LOOKING AT?
HAVE I DISTURBED YOUR PRAYERS?
NOTHING
EH?!

KLANK!
HEY, SLAYN...
YOU MISSED A GREAT FESTIVAL. HOW WAS THE VISIT TO YOUR SCHOOL?
THMP!
IT WAS A DIS-GRACE.

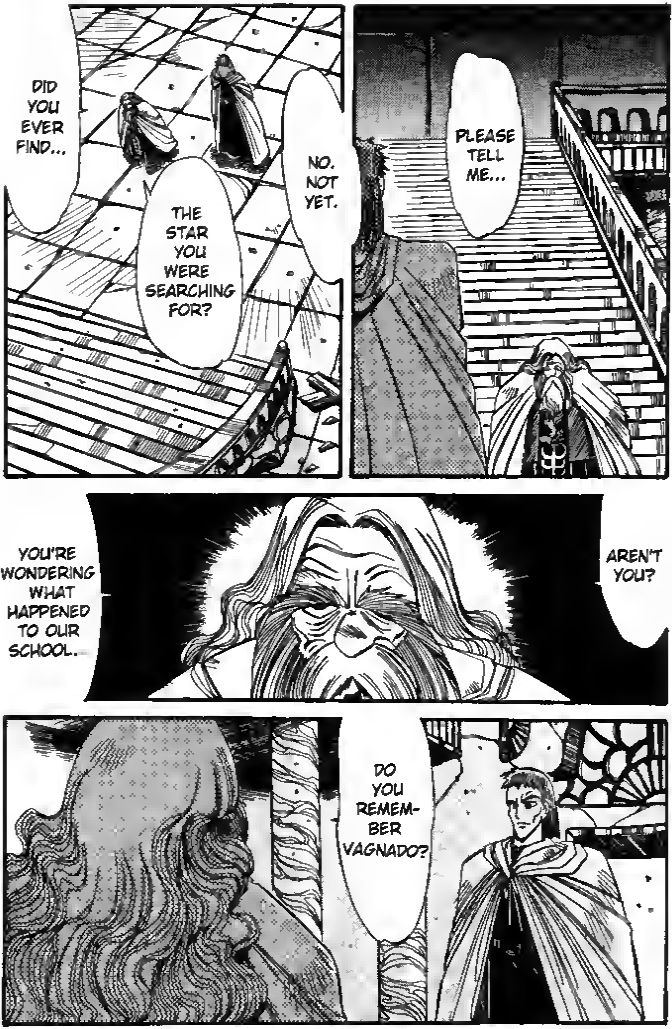
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

CREEEK
SAMALUGAN!!
THE FACILITIES HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY DESTROYED.
...AT THE SCHOOL ANY-MORE.
IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO STUDY PHILO-SOPHY...

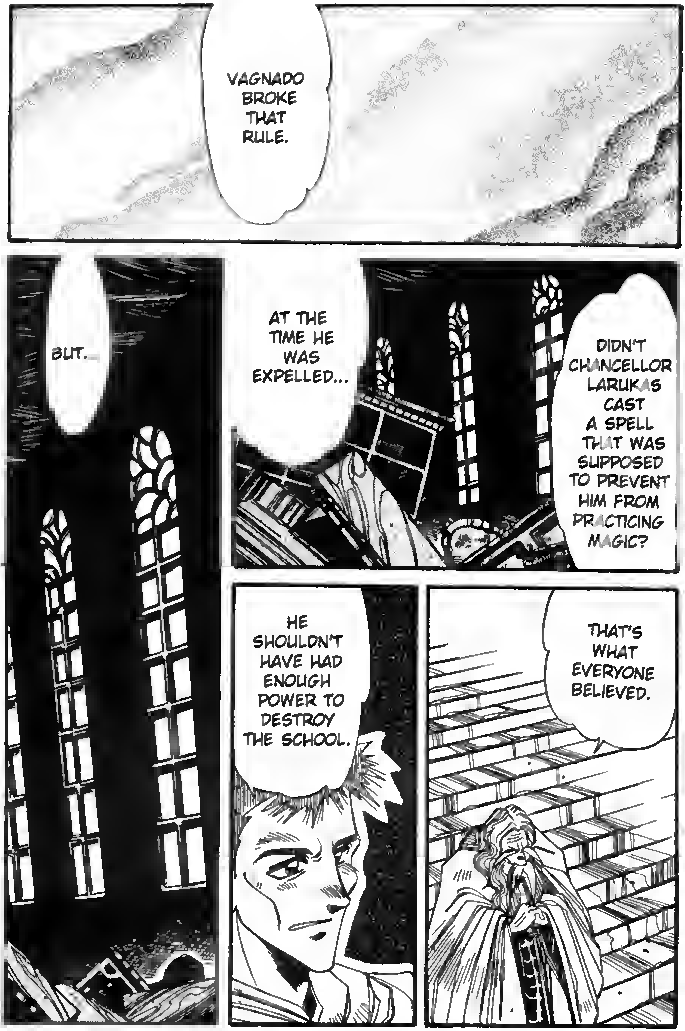

WHAT THE... ?!?
WHAT IN...
HEAVENS NAME HAPPENED HERE!!?

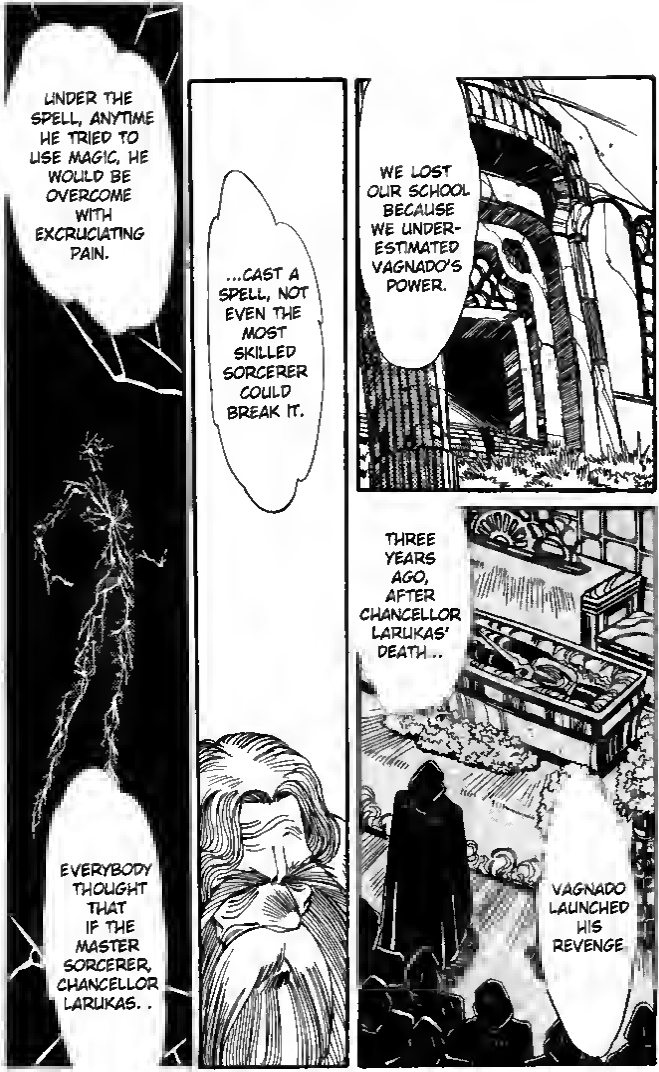
HOW COULD...
THIS HAVE HAPPENED?
EXCUSE ME...
!
SHUFFLE

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH THIS...
..CRUMB-LING OLD SCHOOL?
MASTER JAGURU.
OHH! IS THAT...
IS THAT YOU, SLAYN?


DID YOU EVER FIND...
THE STAR YOU WERE SEARCHING FOR?
NO. NOT YET.
PLEASE TELL ME...
YOU'RE WONDERING WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR SCHOOL.
AREN'T YOU?
DO YOU REMEMBER VAGNADO?

YES. WASN'T HE CONSIDERED THE GREATEST MASTER-MIND THE SCHOOL EVER HAD?
AND DIDN'T HE TRY HIS HAND AT BLACK MAGIC?
HE WAS EXPELLED, WASN'T HE?
THAT'S RIGHT.
USING MAGIC FOR GOOD WAS PERMITTED, BUT...
USING OR ACQUIRING BLACK MAGIC WAS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.


VAGNADO BROKE THAT RULE.
BUT...
AT THE TIME HE WAS EXPELLED...
DIDN'T CHANCELLOR LARUKAS CAST A SPELL THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO PREVENT HIM FROM PRACTICING MAGIC?
HE SHOULDN'T HAVE HAD ENOUGH POWER TO DESTROY THE SCHOOL.
THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE BELIEVED.


UNDER THE SPELL, ANYTIME HE TRIED TO USE MAGIC, HE WOULD BE OVERCOME WITH EXCRUCIATING PAIN.
EVERYBODY THOUGHT THAT IF THE MASTER SORCERER, CHANCELLOR LARUKAS. .
...CAST A SPELL, NOT EVEN THE MOST SKILLED SORCERER COULD BREAK IT.
WE LOST OUR SCHOOL BECAUSE WE UNDER-ESTIMATED VAGNADO'S POWER.
THREE YEARS AGO, AFTER CHANCELLOR LARUKAS' DEATH...
VAGNADO LAUNCHED HIS REVENGE

STUDENTS, SORCERERS AND PROFESSORS FROM THE SCHOOL...
...WERE MASSACRED IN THE STREETS OF ALLAN
IT WAS CLEAR THAT VAGNADO USED HIS EVIL MAGIC...
...TO KILL THEM.
AND AS YOU CAN SEE, THE CAMPUS LIBRARY AND TREASURY WERE PLUNDERED...
AND MANY THINGS WERE BURNED TO ASHES.

WE CAN'T LET THAT VAGNADO GET AWAY WITH THIS!
BAM!
ARE YOU STILL DRUNK? IT'S TOO EARLY TO BE SHOUTING.
THEY HAD THEIR OWN POWERS BUT DID NOTHING TO DEFEND THEMSELVES.
WHY DIDN'T THE SORCERERS FIGHT BACK?!

I'M JUST PISSED 'CUZ...
PLOP!
NO ONE DID ANYTHING...
EVEN THOUGH THEY KNEW WHO THE GUY WAS!
GRRRR!
NO ONE DID ANY-THING..
THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
SORCERERS DON'T LEARN SORCERY TO FIGHT.

AREN'T YOU IN DANGER, SLAYN?
I DOUBT IT.
I'M SURE VAGNADO'S REVENGE ENDED WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SCHOOL
IT'S CRAZY TO LET YOUR SCHOOL BE DESTROYED WITHOUT PUTTING UP A FIGHT.
IF IT WERE ME...
WHAT? YOU'D LET VAGNADO HAVE IT?
HUH?

To Be Continued

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RECORD OF LODOSS WAR

The Grey Witch

Story by Ryo Mizuno

Ryo Mizuno is the world renowned creator of the entire **Record of the Lodoss War** universe. The story you now hold in your hands, **The Grey Witch** is the first **Lodoss War** story Mr. Mizuno ever wrote. Looking back at all his works, he feels that **The Grey Witch** is the most primitive, from his standpoint as its writer. For this reason, Mr. Mizuno says that he often gets embarrassed after re-reading **The Grey Witch**. However, he loves Mr. Ochi's beautiful illustrations and is extremely satisfied with the way his characters were brought to life in this comic book.

Art by Yoshihiko Ochi

Mr. Ochi would like to share one of his favorite proverbs with **Lodoss War** readers: *"In looking ahead to the future, one must always reflect upon the past."*

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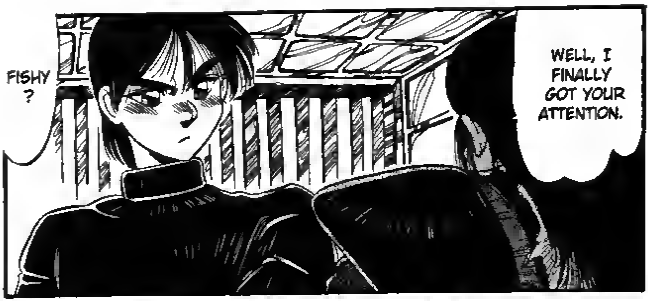
CLANG!
BUT YOU SAY YOU'RE INNO-CENT.
THAT'S FUNNY. YOU LOOK LIKE A THIEF...
I'M INNOCENT!
HO... HOLD ON!
SHHP
HOW'D HE GET OVER HERE?
HE WAS JUST AT THE COUNTER.
I HEARD YOU GUYS TALKIN' AND FIGURED IT WAS ABOUT HIM.
HEH HEH HEH...

PARN, LISTENING TO THIEVES..
IT'S NOT SAFE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'RE A SORCERER FROM THE UNIVERSITY, AIN'T YA?
WHAT'S IT WORTH TO YA TO KNOW IF THE GOODS FROM YOUR SCHOOL ARE HIDDEN SOMEPLACE?
WHAT?

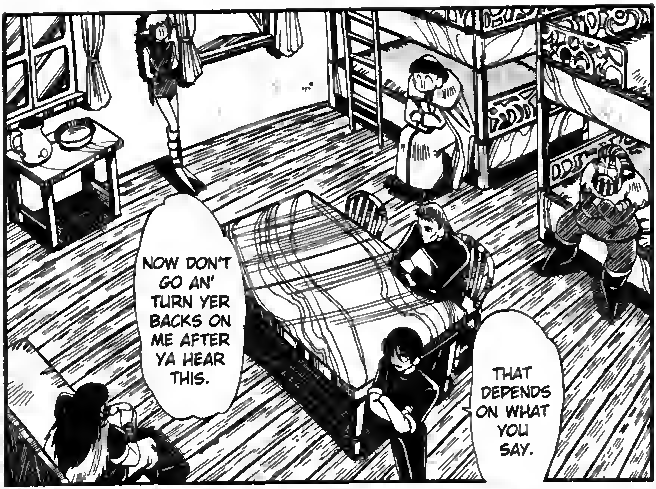
WEREN'T THE TREASURES STOLEN BY THIEVES?
AND DIDN'T THE THIEVES FIGHT OVER THEM?
MISS ELF...
IF I WANTED TO STEAL SOMETHIN'
I WOULDN'T BE TALKIN' TO YOU.
I SMELL SOMETHIN' FISHY HERE.
BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT.
WE THIEVES GOT THE INSIDE SCOOP. IF THERE'S A DEAL COOKIN', WE JUMP IN AND MAKE A BUNDLE.

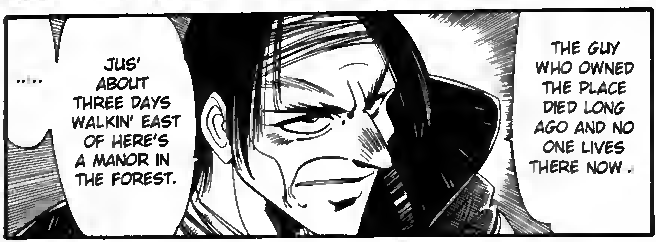

FISHY ?
WELL, I FINALLY GOT YOUR ATTENTION.

I'LL LISTEN, BUT I ONLY DRAW MY SWORD IN PURSUIT OF RIGHTEOUS-NESS!
SHNK

OF COURSE. AIN'T NOTHIN' HERE GONNA MESS UP YOUR REPUTATION, AND THAT THERE'S A PROMISE
OK, I'M LISTEN-ING!

KA-RA-K!
MY NAME'S WOOD-CHUCK.
I'M PARN.
I'M ETOH.
I'M A PHARIS PRIEST.
GHIM HERE.
I'M DEEDLIT, THE ELF.
I'M SORCERER SLAYN.


NOW DON'T GO AN' TURN YER BACKS ON ME AFTER YA HEAR THIS.
THAT DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU SAY.


...!...
JUS' ABOUT THREE DAYS WALKIN' EAST OF HERE'S A MANOR IN THE FOREST.
THE GUY WHO OWNED THE PLACE DIED LONG AGO AND NO ONE LIVES THERE NOW.

NO ONE'S SUPPOSED TO BE THERE..
BUT A LITTLE WAYS BACK, AN ODD LOOKIN' BUNCH SETTLED IN.
AND..

IT WAS 'ROUND THE TIME THE TREASURE WAS LIFTED.
IF THEY'RE THE ONE'S THAT DONE IT, THEY'RE UNLICENSED.
AN' NOT WANTIN' 'EM TO MESS UP THE REPUTATION OF THE THIEVES GUILD...

WE SENT THIS GUY FROM THE GUILD TO CHECK 'EM OUT.
HE SEEN SOMETHIN' YA WOULDN'T BELIEVE

WHAT'D YA THINK HE SEEN?
HOW WOULD I KNOW?
THE GUARDS OUTSIDE THE PLACE...

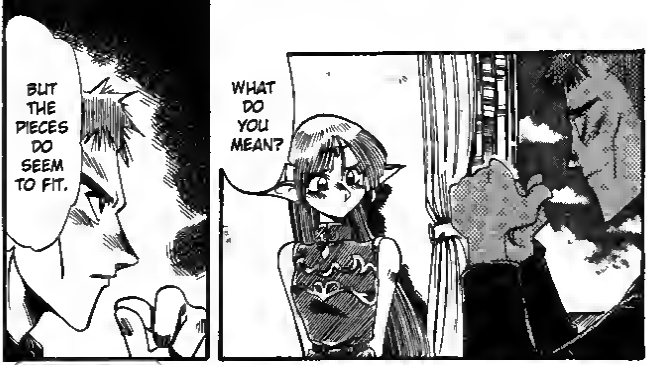
...WERE A DARK ELF AND AN OGRE.

A DARK ELF! AREN'T THEY THE ONES WHO SOLD THEIR SOULS TO THE GOD OF DARKNESS AND BROUGHT ABOUT DEATH AND DESTRUCTION IN THE WAR AGAINST EVIL!?

AND OGRES ARE..
...FIERCER THAN GOBLINS.

AND THAT'S NOT ALL...
EH?
SOME ROUGH LOOKING GUYS IN ARMOR WITH THE MARMO CREST...
...ON THEIR CHEST PLATES CAME OUTTA THE MANOR.
MARMO !?
YOU MEAN THE DARK ISLAND OF MARMO, RULED BY EMPEROR BELD?!
ONE OF THE SIX HEROES ?!
NO WONDER THERE ARE DARK ELVES AND OGRES WITH THEM.
I HEARD MARMO IS FULL OF EVIL CREATURES.

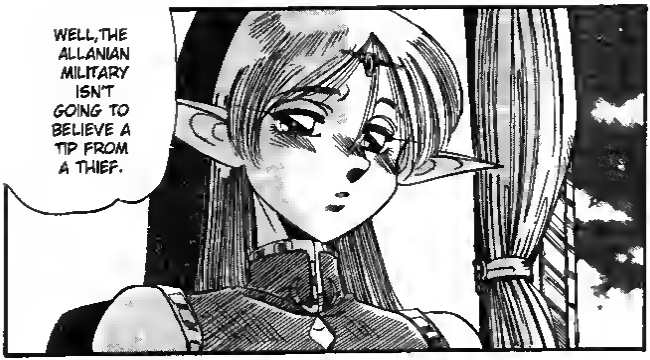
EMPEROR BELD LOST HIS SOUL THE MOMENT HE CONQUERED EVIL.
NOW HE IS KNOWN AS A CRUEL, MERCILESS RULER.
THIS IS A LOT FISHIER THAN I THOUGHT.
DAMN RIGHT!
WE CAN NOT MAKE A SOLIND JUDGMENT ON CONJECTURE AND HEAR-SAY ALONE...

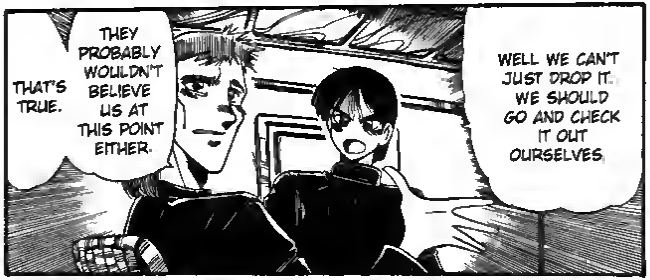

BUT THE PIECES DO SEEM TO FIT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

AFTER VAGNADO WAS EXPELLED FROM THE UNIVERSITY--
HE WENT TO WORK FOR EMPEROR BELD AS IMPERIAL MAGICIAN.

SO BELD DECIDED TO DESTROY THE UNIVERSITY BECAUSE HE FIGURED THE SORCERERS WOULD GET IN THE WAY OF MARMO'S ATTACK.
WE CAN'T BE CERTAIN.

BUT THIS DOES SEEM TO BE THE WORST CASE SCENARIO.
THIS IS SERIOUS NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT.
WE CAN'T DEAL WITH IT OUR-SELVES.
MAYBE WE SHOULD INFORM THE ALLANIAN MILITARY.
WHOA! WHOA!
THIS IS A HOT LEAD!
THINK OF THE REWARD FOR GETTIN' BACK ALL THAT TREASURE.
AH-HA. THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE AFTER.
HMPH.


WELL, THE ALLANIAN MILITARY ISN'T GOING TO BELIEVE A TIP FROM A THIEF.


WELL WE CAN'T JUST DROP IT. WE SHOULD GO AND CHECK IT OUT OURSELVES.
THEY PROBABLY WOULDN'T BELIEVE US AT THIS POINT EITHER.
THAT'S TRUE.

AND IF WE CAN GET SOME EVIDENCE . .
THE ALLANIAN MILITARY IS BOUND TO BELIEVE US.

THAT'S ALL WE CAN DO.

RAT-T-LE!
THIS IS IT.
THIS PATH'LL TAKE YA RIGHT TO THE MANOR.

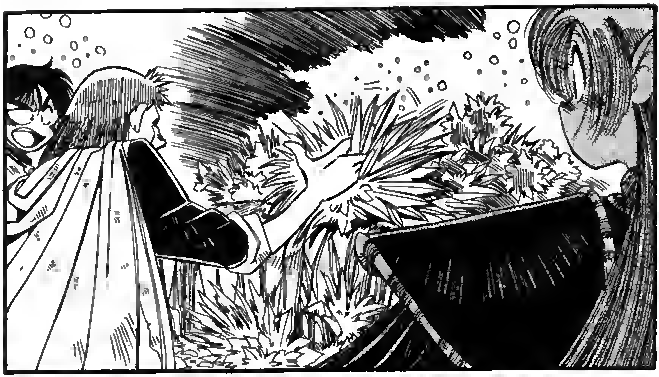
WHAT A STRANGE PLACE TO BUILD A HOUSE
I DON'T SEE A MANOR HOUSE UP THERE.
IT'S PERFECT FOR A HIDE-OUT.
TRUE. WE SHOULD GO INTO THE FOREST.
APPROACHING IT FROM THIS PATH COULD BE DANGEROUS.

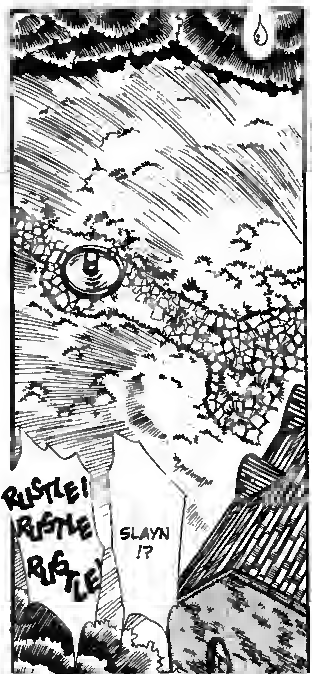
WHAT A HAPPY LITTLE FOREST SPIRIT.
DAMN THESE VINES!
I WISH SHE'D TEACH ME HOW TO WALK THROUGH THIS JUNGLE.
RUSTLE!
TAP TAP TAP

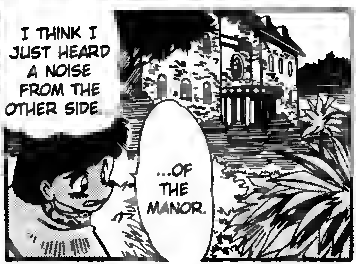
KEEP QUIET!
RUSTLE! RUSTLE!
SHHH

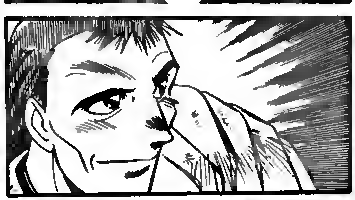
THERE THEY ARE.
WHAT NEXT?
DON'T JUST POUNCE ON THEM LIKE YOU USUALLY DO.
WHAT SHOULD I DO? SIT HERE AND DO NOTHING!?

I HOPE MY SORCERY WORKS ON THEM.
I DOUBT IT.
DARK ELVES CAN REPEL MAGIC.
I KNOW.
SO I'LL CREATE AN ILLUSION WITH SOUND...
...TO DIVERT THEIR ATTENTION.
I SEE
IF I CAN GET AT LEAST ONE OF THEM TO LOOK AWAY, IT'LL BE EASIER.
FZZA?!




RUSTLE!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
SLAYN
!?

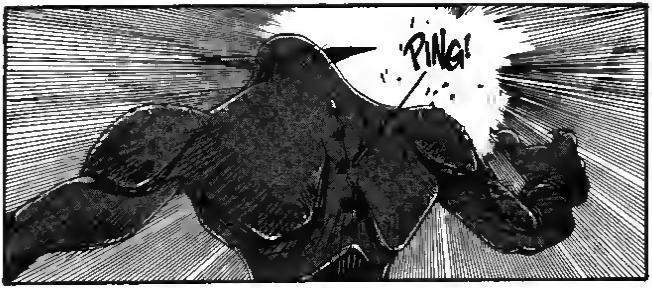

I THINK I JUST HEARD A NOISE FROM THE OTHER SIDE.
...OF THE MANOR.



GREAT TRICK!
YOU GOTTA SHOW ME THAT ONE.

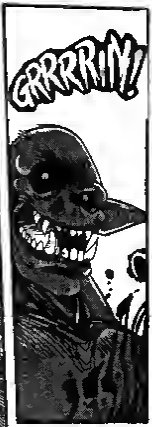
.....
NOW!
LUNGE

WHOOOSH
!
SHU


PING!

SNAP

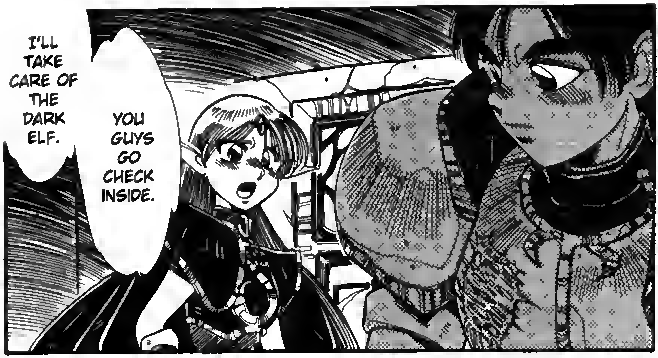
SPURT!


GRRRRIN!

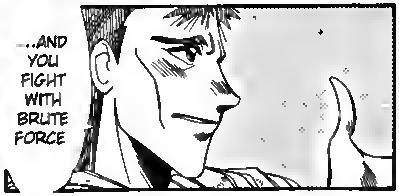
DEED
!!
WHAM!

-WHEW!-
HISS!
HUP !!

TH
UD!
THMP
ARE YOU OK?
Y... YEAH.
GHM!
THE DARK ELF HASN'T COME BACK YET.


I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE DARK ELF.
YOU GUYS GO CHECK INSIDE.

DO AS SHE SAYS.
WE'LL FIGHT MAGIC WITH MAGIC...


...AND YOU FIGHT WITH BRUTE FORCE

GOT IT!
GHIM! ETCH!!

DAMN! WE'VE BEEN TRICKED.
OH, LITTLE SPIRIT SPRITE...
GIVE TO ME...
...YOUR INVISIBLE LIGHT!

IT'S STRANGE HE HASN'T..
..COME BACK YET.
tug!
FLO
OSH

UNDENE!

IT'S THE WATER SPRITE, UNDENE...
YOU CAN SEE THE DARK ELF, CAN'T YOU?
SHOW HIM TO US.
WHOOSH
FLOOOSH!
I KNOW YOU'RE THERE, DARK ELF!
OH, LITTLE SPIRIT SPRITE, BRING BACK THE INVISIBLE ELF TO OUR SIGHT!!
WOOSH!

SHOOP!
DAMN! I MUST BE UP AGAINST THAT ELF AND THAT SORCERER FROM THE UNIVERSITY
WHHOP
To Be Continued...

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RECORD OF LODOSS WAR

The Grey Witch

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Story by Ryo Mizuno

Art by Yoshihiko Ochi

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SHUUU!
FLOOSH!
FLOOOSH!
DAMN!
HEH! I'VE STILL GOT IT!
TINK

WHOOSH
tak
ZIP

ZAM
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU!?
THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW! WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THOSE EVIL CREATURES?!

SSHHP!
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
POW
TAK!
WWWAP
KA

SPLAT
JAB
SLASH

THUNK!
IF THERE'S NO EVIDENCE HERE, WHAT YOU JUST DID MAKES YOU WORSE THAN A THIEF.
IF I COULD HAVE REASONED WITH THEM, I WOULD HAVE.
I'M GONNA LOOK AROUND UPSTAIRS. GHIM, YOU AND ETOH CHECK THINGS OUT DOWN HERE.

WELL?
I HAVEN'T FOUND ANYTHING YET.
IT LOOKS LIKE...
THAT DOOR IS OPEN.

SHOULD WE GO IN AND SEE?
OF COURSE.
TAK TAK
KREEEEAK
THIS IS WHERE THOSE FOUR GUYS WERE.
BAM!
HEY!
WHAT'S THAT?

Rustle
WHAT DOES IT SAY?
HUH?
RUSTLE!
?
DOES THE KING OF ALLANIA LIKE TO GO HUNTING?

YEAH EVERYONE KNOWS THAT.
WHAT'S THIS?
RUSTLE!
IT'S A MAP OF SOME HUNTING GROUNDS.
ONE OF THEM IS NEAR HERE.
THIS LOOKS LIKE A LIST OF THE NUMBER OF SERVANTS AND ROYAL GUARDS.
AND A PICTURE OF A MAN.
HERE'S THE DATE OF A HUNT...
HE LOOKS LIKE AN ALLANIAN SOLDIER.
!
OH MY GOD! ARE THEY PLOTTING TO ASSASSINATE HIM?!
WHO? THE KING OF ALLANIA?

I BET THAT'S IT! THEY'RE PLANNING TO ASSASSINATE THE KING WHILE HE'S HUNTING AND NOT HEAVILY GUARDED.
WOOD WAS RIGHT.
IF THIS GUY IS AN INSIDER IN THE ALLANIAN ARMY ..
THEY COULD PULL IT OFF.
THIS SHOULD CALM ETOH DOWN.
LET'S KEEP LOOKING.
Krumble Krumble
YEAH.
EH?
KLINK

KGWK
IT WON'T OPEN.
SLAYN' WOOD-CHUCK!
IT WAS SMART OF YOU TO CALL THE SORCERER TOO.
DON'T BE PEEPING THROUGH KEYHOLES LIKE THAT.
SUPPOSIN' IT'S BOOBY-TRAPPED WITH A POISON ARROW.

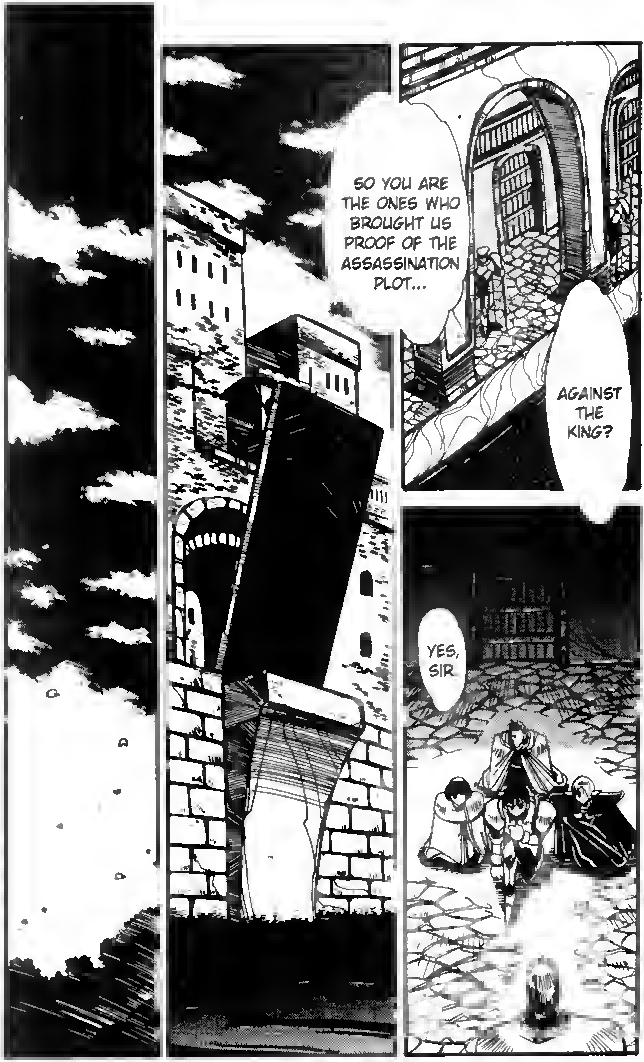
IS ETOH ALONE DOWN-STAIRS?
HE'LL BE FINE. THERE'S NOTHING DOWN THERE.
AIN'T NO BOOBY-TRAP HERE.
ping
chinG ching
KLANK KLANK
YOU COULDN'T PULL OR PUSH IT OPEN?
KLONK KONK
NO.
TAKE IT AWAY, SORCERER.
IT AIN'T BOOBY-TRAPPED AND IT AIN'T LOCKED.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN SHUT BY MAGIC.
CREEAK
IT WAS NOTHING. JUST BEGINNER'S MAGIC.
GOOD JOB.
DEED AND WOOD, LET'S KEEP MOVING.
SLAYN, YOU AND GHIM CHECK THIS ROOM OUT.
IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S NO ONE HERE.

THESE ARE NOT THE UNIVERSITY'S BOOKS...
THEY MUST HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO MARMO ALREADY.
FLIP FLIP
THIS IS

All is going well here. How are things on your end? Please reply in the usual manner.
Karla
I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND THIS.
GHM?
?

A
STRIKING
RESEMBLANCE
...


SO YOU ARE THE ONES WHO BROUGHT US PROOF OF THE ASSASSINATION PLOT...
AGAINST THE KING?
YES, SIR.

I'M PASHA, THE JUDICIAL OFFICER.
I APOLOGIZE FOR BRINGING YOU TO SUCH A SQUALID ROOM...
BUT THIS SITUATION REQUIRES THE UTMOST SECURITY.
I'VE JUST INTERROGATED THE SOLDIER IN THE PICTURE AND HE CONFESSED TO EVERYTHING.
HIS COURT MARTIAL IS UNDERWAY.
I'D LIKE TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR BRINGING THIS MATTER...
...TO OUR ATTENTION AS A TOKEN OF OUR APPRECIATION, PLEASE ACCEPT...

Kal
Chink
ONE THOUSAND GOLD PIECES.
THAT'S THE REWARD.
HALF OF THIS IS FOR YOU, WOOD.
ARE YOU SURE?
YOU BROUGHT US THE SCOOP--
DIDN'T YOU?
BESIDES, I WASN'T IN IT FOR THE MONEY.
chrik!
FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE IS ENOUGH FOR ME

HOLD ON.
I GOT SOME-THING TO ASK YA.
HOW'S ABOUT I JOIN UP WITH YA.
I BEEN GETTIN' TO LIKE YOU GUYS.
AND WE COULD GET INTO SOME REALLY BIG THINGS TOGETHER.

SWEATDROP
WELL ..
I DON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO SAY NO, BUT...
YOU SHOULD KNOW OUR JOURNEY ISN'T ABOUT MAKING MONEY.
YOU CAN'T EXPECT A REWARD ALL THE TIME.
I GOTCHA!
YOUR TALENTS AS A THIEF MAY COME IN HANDY
BUT NEVER USE THEM TO STEAL.
IF YOU DO, PEOPLE WILL THINK WE'RE THIEVES AS WELL.

OK.
OK.

BA
Jingle
MM

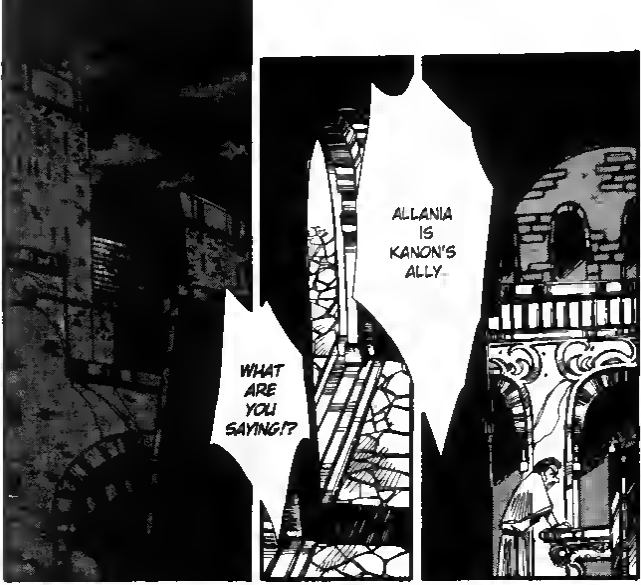
TAK
TAK
TAK

SOME-
THING.
SOMETHING
TERRIBLE'S
HAPPENED!
-HUFF-

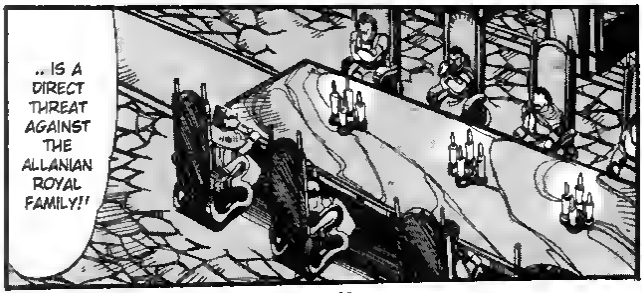
EMPEROR BELD OF MARMO HAS INVADED LODOSS!
WH..
KANON...
KANON HAS BEEN DESTROYED!

WHAT?!

THIS MEANS WAR AND A BIG WAR AT THAT.


WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
ALLANIA IS KANON'S ALLY...

NOT ONLY THAT, KING KADOMOS' MOTHER IS RELATED TO KANON'S ROYAL FAMILY.
MARMO'S INVASION OF KANON...


..IS A DIRECT THREAT AGAINST THE ALLANIAN ROYAL FAMILY!!

BUT THEY HAVEN'T DECLARED WAR ON ALLANIA YET!
IF EMPEROR BELD IS ANYTHING LIKE THEY SAY, WE CAN'T SIT BACK AND WAIT!
AT THE SUMMIT IN VALIS WE AGREED..
..TO GO TO THE AID OF ANY NATION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE THAT WAS ATTACKED.
WE SIGNED THE DECLAR-ATION.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
WE SHOULD LEAD THE OTHER NATIONS..
...INTO BATTLE AGAINST MARMO'S AGGRESSION!

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IT'S AN OFFICIAL PROCLAM-ATION.
WHAT'S GOING ON?

IT SAYS SOLDIERS WON'T BE DISPATCHED TO KANON DIRECTLY, BUT RATHER, THEY'RE FORMING A BLOCKADE ON THE SOUTHERN ROAD IN CASE OF A MARMO INVASION.
THEY'RE NOT GOING TO RECRUIT SOLDIERS OR FORM A MILITIA?!
THEY'RE WAITING TO SEE WHAT THE OTHER NATIONS WILL DO.
WHAT ARE THEY WAITING FOR!?
GRAAG
SHUU

MARMO HAS DESTROYED THE UNIVERSITY AND TRIED TO ASSASSINATE THE KING!!
WHY WON'T THEY FIGHT!? WHY DON'T THEY GET UP AND FIGHT!!?
PARN!!
LOWER YOUR VOICE

PARN...
THEY'RE COWARDS! I GOT TWENTY YEARS FOR PETTY THEFT!
WHAT SHALL WE DO?
I SAY WE HEAD FOR VALIS!
I'M SURE THE VALISIANS WILL FIGHT!

THE SAND STORMS WILL HOLD US UP.
AND IF WE TRY CROSSING THE DESERT TO THE WEST...
BUT THE SOUTHERN ROAD HAS BEEN BARRICADED!
!
I'M GOING! EVEN IF I HAVE TO CROSS THE FOREST OF NEVER RETURN
I KNOW. I KNOW NO ONE'S EVER COME OUT OF THE FOREST ALIVE, RIGHT?
ARE YOU SERIOUS, PARN? HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THE STORIES ABOUT THAT FOREST

BUT THERE'S NO OTHER WAY I'LL JUST HAVE BE THE FIRST PERSON TO GET THROUGH IT.
SLOW DOWN. ARE YOU SERIOUS?
I THINK THAT IT'S...
...A GREAT IDEA.
HUH?

AIN'T THAT THE FOREST OF NEVER RETURN?
THAT'S IT!
THIS IS NUTS. WE GOTTA CROSS THE FOREST TO GET TO VALIS.
WE BEEN WALKIN' AROUND IT FOR TWO DAYS.
IF YOU'RE SO ANXIOUS TO GO IN, GO RIGHT AHEAD

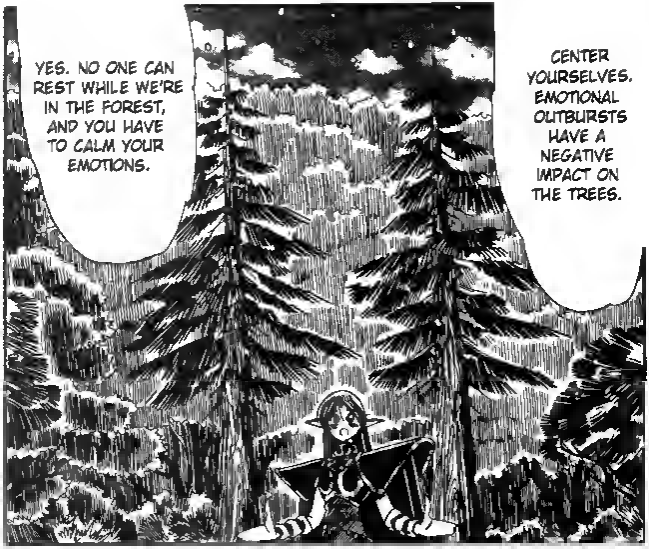
GIMME A BREAK!
THEN STOP GRUMBLING. ALL WE CAN DO IS LET THE FOREST SPIRIT LEAD US IN

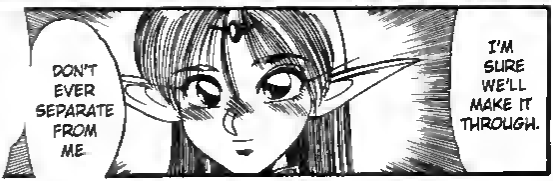
THE FOREST OF NEVER RETURN IS UNDER AN ANCIENT ELF'S SPELL.

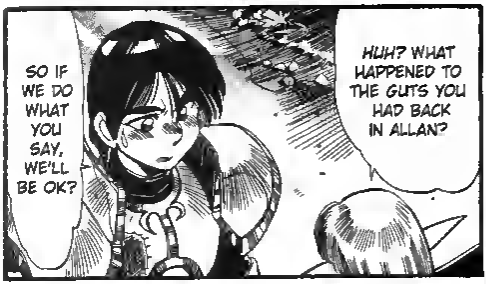
SINCE SHE'S AN ELF, SHE MUST KNOW HOW TO GET THROUGH IT

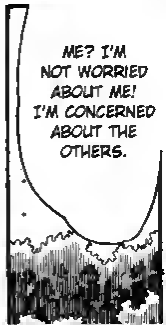
THIS WAY
FOLLOW ME

COME ON.
THIS IS THE WAY
IF YOU DO AS I SAY, THE CURSE OF THE ANCIENT ELF WON'T AFFECT YOU.
DO AS YOU SAY?


YES. NO ONE CAN REST WHILE WE'RE IN THE FOREST, AND YOU HAVE TO CALM YOUR EMOTIONS.
CENTER YOURSELVES. EMOTIONAL OUTBURSTS HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE TREES.


AND ONE LAST THING...
DON'T EVER SEPARATE FROM ME
I'M SURE WE'LL MAKE IT THROUGH.


SO IF WE DO WHAT YOU SAY, WE'LL BE OK?
HUH? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GUTS YOU HAD BACK IN ALLAN?


ME? I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT ME! I'M CONCERNED ABOUT THE OTHERS.

FOME--
ALANIS--
KATOLL!!

THE GATE WILL CLOSE SOON
RUN!!
TAK

TMP
!
THE FOREST...
IT'S GLOWING!

SO THIS..
...IS THE FOREST OF NEVER RETURN.
PARN, WHERE'S YOUR ARMOR?
EH?
AAAH!
DON'T WORRY. FAIRIES DON'T LIKE METAL, SO IT'S JUST INVISIBLE.
YOU SHOULD STILL FEEL THE WEIGHT.

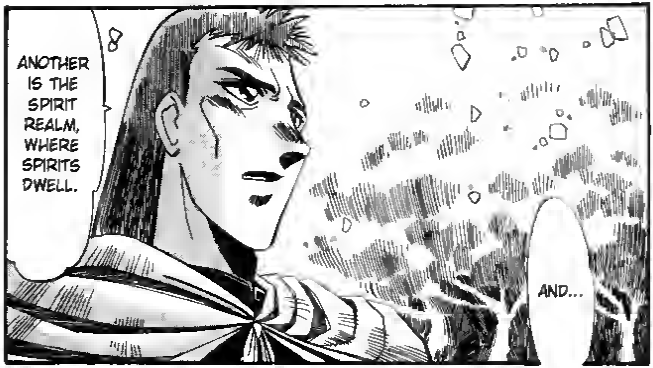
*DEED'S ARMOR IS LEATHER

WHEN WE GET OUT OF HERE, YOU'LL SEE IT AGAIN
YEAH. I CAN FEEL IT.
!

SO THIS IS THE REALM OF FAIRIES! REALITY IS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT HERE ..
ISN'T IT, DEEDLIT?

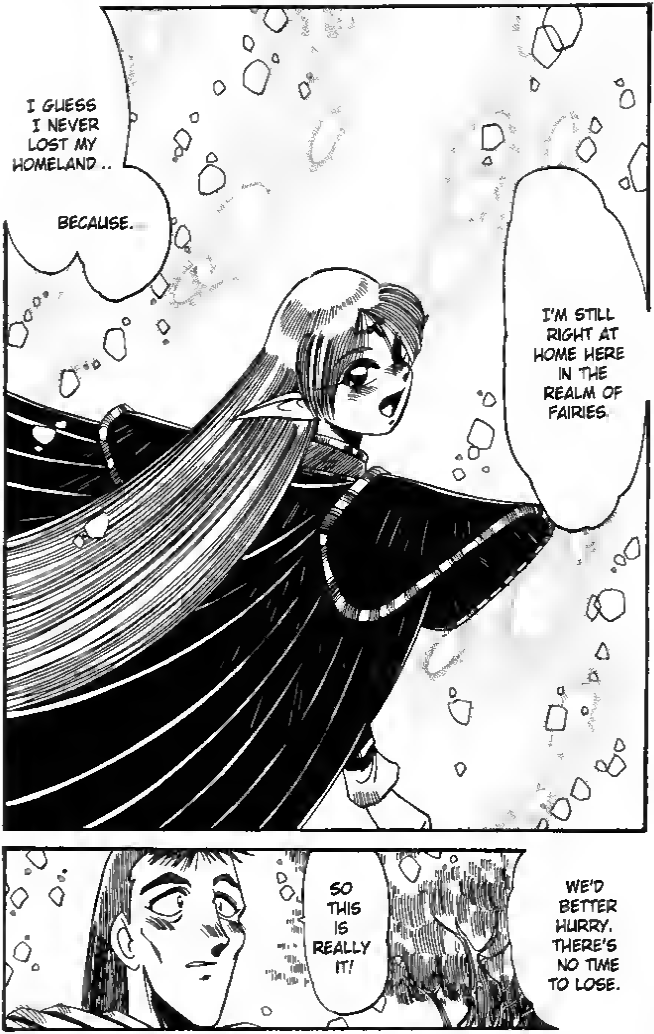
IF I KNEW YOU KNEW, I WOULD'VE SAID SOME-THING EARLIER.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

IT IS NOT WELL UNDERSTOOD, BUT IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE WORLD CONSISTS OF THREE REALMS.
ONE IS THE MATERIAL REALM, THE WORLD WHERE HUMANS LIVE


ANOTHER IS THE SPIRIT REALM, WHERE SPIRITS DWELL.
AND...

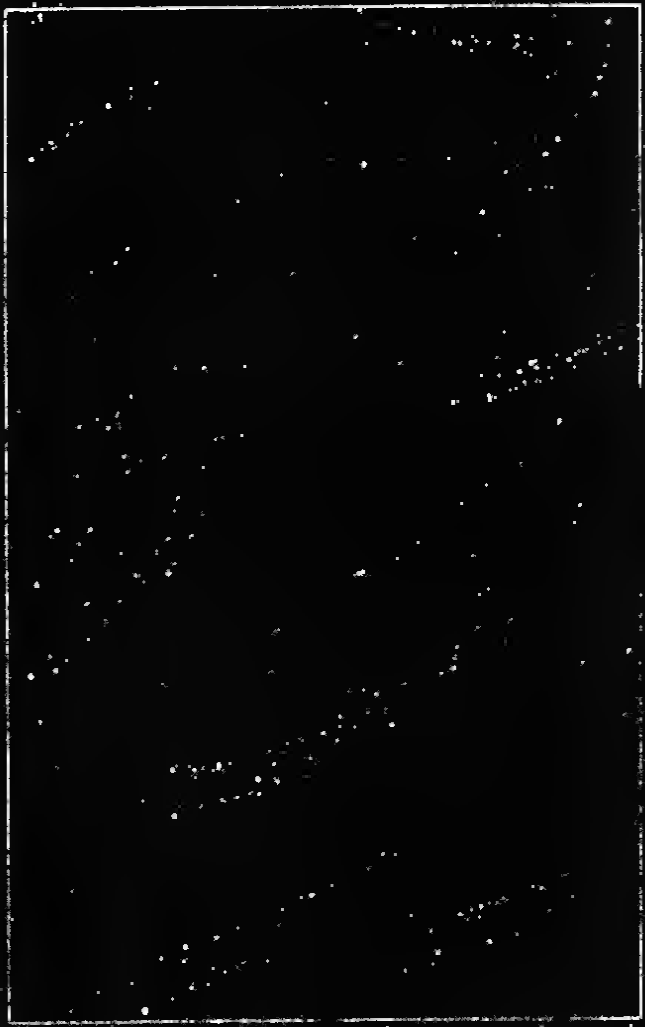
THE WORLD WHERE THE SPIRIT REALM AND MATERIAL REALM JOIN...
...IS WHERE WE ARE NOW STANDING.
IT'S CALLED THE REALM OF FAIRIES.
I'VE READ ABOUT IT IN BOOKS
BUT I DIDN'T THINK I WOULD EVER COME HERE.

DEEDLIT.
TELL ME, DIDN'T YOU ELVES LOSE YOUR HOMELAND?
I HEARD THAT ELVES ARE TIED TO THE MATERIAL WORLD AND HAVE LOST THEIR PLACE IN THE REALM OF FAIRIES
BUT YOU OPENED THE DOOR TO THIS WORLD AS IF IT WERE YOUR OWN AND LED US IN HERE.
SLAYN..


I GUESS I NEVER LOST MY HOMELAND..
BECAUSE..
I'M STILL RIGHT AT HOME HERE IN THE REALM OF FAIRIES.
SO THIS IS REALLY IT!
WE'D BETTER HURRY, THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE.

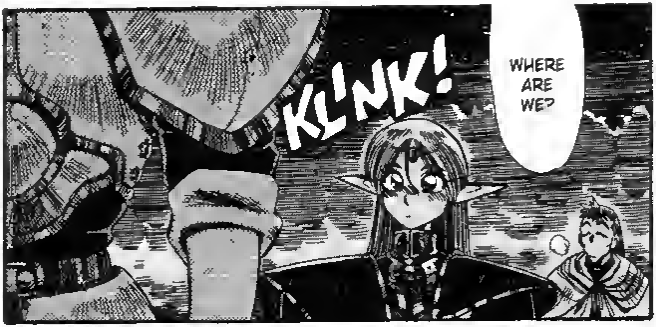
THAT'S RIGHT! THE PASSAGE OF TIME IN THE REALM OF FAIRIES IS DIFFERENT FROM OUR WORLD!
IF YOU TAKE YOUR TIME IN HERE...
YES. TIME PASSES MUCH SLOWER HERE
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US THAT BEFORE!?
...HUNDREDS OF YEARS COULD BE PASSING OUTSIDE
WHEN WE GET OUT OF HERE, WE COULD BE IN A DIFFERENT ERA!?

I WON'T REMEMBER WHY I CAME INTO THE FOREST OF NEVER RETURN IN THE FIRST PLACE!!



-:HUFF:-
IT'S GETTING DARK...
GOOD GOD! I WONDER HOW MUCH TIME HAS PASSED?!
-:HUFF:-
KRAKKE

IT'S PROBABLY BEEN ABOUT THREE DAYS.
THREE DAYS...
plop!
SO WE'RE STILL...
...IN OUR OWN PLACE IN HISTORY.
YES.
YOU'RE STILL IN YOUR OWN PLACE IN HISTORY.


KL'NK!
WHERE ARE WE?

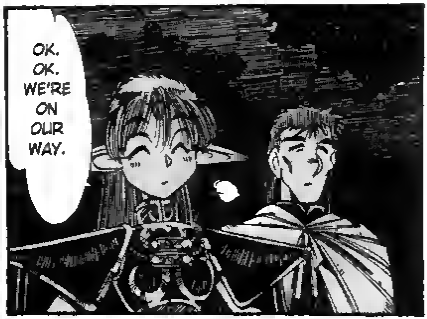
ONCE WE CROSS THESE MOUNTAINS WE SHOULD BE ON THE NORTHERN ROAD THAT LINKS KANON AND VALIS

LET'S GO! I'M NOT AT ALL TIRED, EVEN THOUGH IT'S NIGHT.
LET'S CROSS THOSE MOUNTAINS AND KEEP GOING!

DEEDLIT--
..YOU'RE A HIGH ELF..
..FROM THE SUPREME RACE OF ELVES THAT WAS BELIEVED TO BE EXTINCT, AREN'T YOU?
TINK! TINK!
AFTER ALL THAT RUNNING, YOU'RE STILL RARIN' TO GO.
YES.
IF I LIVED SILENTLY ALONE IN THE FOREST...
I COULD LIVE FOREVER.
BUT IN A FUTURE WHERE THE SOUL OF GOD IS FADING AND THE FLESH OF DRAGONS IS ROTTING..

...IF LIVING SILENTLY FOR A LONG TIME IN A SHIMMERING, RADIANT FOREST..
I WON-DER
...EVEN HIGH ELVES WOULD PERISH EVENT-UALLY.
...AS LONG AS YOU KEEP MOVING FORWARD...
YOU CAN ALWAYS FIND RADIANCE.
IN SPITE OF ALL THE FOOLISHNESS AND SAVAGERY AND THE NEVER ENDING BATTLES IN THE HUMAN WORLD.
...IS REALLY SUCH A RADIANT WAY TO LIVE.

DEEDLIT! SLAYN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WE'RE GONNA LEAVE YOU BEHIND !!


OK. OK. WE'RE ON OUR WAY.

To Be Continued...